

**Worship Guide**  
**SUNDAY 10AM**  
**September 27, 2020**  
**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Prelude**

~~WELCOME / Announcements

**NEW AND GOOD**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.  
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.  
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

**MUSIC**

## **PM - PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

## **First Reading: Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 25 - musical recording**

## **Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR ALLELUIA**

**Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

## **MUSIC**

### **APOSTLES CREED** (*assembly stands*)

*With the whole church let us confess our faith:*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into  
heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions (*especially*), change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community (*especially*); make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SHARE THE PEACE**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

You are holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;

You bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel,

You chose, the people of your promise:

The rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,

The memory of the fathers, the homecoming of the exile,

And the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your Only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

Our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you

Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup,

gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people for the

Forgiveness of sin.

Do this in remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and

drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death

until he comes.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the incarnation of your Son;  
His human birth and the covenant he made with us.  
We remember the sacrifice of his life;  
His eating with outcasts and sinners,  
And his acceptance of death.

But on this day we remember his rising from the tomb,  
His ascension to the seat of power,  
And his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,  
When Christ will come again in beauty and power  
To share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share  
In this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
May enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,  
And may receive our inheritance with all your saints in the light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes  
as victorious Lord of all.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION - HYMNS**

### **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard  
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,  
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ  
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

### **CHOIR DOXOLOGY**

#### **Blessing**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**