



17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023

Opening Hymn #224
Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord

1. Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!
Be all Thy graces now out poured
On each believer's mind and heart;
Thy fervent love to them impart.
Lord, by the brightness of Thy light,
Thou in the faith dost men unite
Of every land and every tongue;
This to Thy praise, O Lord, our God, be sung.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

2. Thou holy Light, Guide Divine,
Oh, cause the Word of Life to shine!
Teach us to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.
From every error keep us free;
Let none but Christ our Master be
That we in living faith abide,
In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

3. Thou holy Fire, Comfort true,
Grant us the will Thy work to do
And in Thy service to abide;
Let trials turn us not aside.

Lord, by Thy power prepare each heart
And to our weakness strength impart
That bravely here we may contend,
Through life and death to Thee, our Lord, ascend.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Invocation

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Confession and Absolution

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen

Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis – sing

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,
At God's right hand in majesty most high:
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The First Lesson – Isaiah 55:6-9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Psalm of the Day- Psalm 27:1-9

Antiphon – (WS p. 41)

Antiphon - I will praise Your name forever, my King and my God.

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me to eat | up my flesh,*

my adversaries and foes, it is they who stum- | ble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart | shall not fear;*
though war arise against me, yet I will be | confident.

4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*
**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my
life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his |
temple.**

5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*
**he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me
high up- | on a rock.**

6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around
me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*
I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud;*
be gracious to me and | answer me!

8 You have said, | “Seek my face.”*
My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, | do I seek.”

9 Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in |
anger,*

**O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me
not, O God of my sal- | vation!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Antiphon - I will praise Your name forever, my King and my God.

The Second Lesson – Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Gospel – Matthew 20:1-16

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And

when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.'⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house,¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?'¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?'¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

P: Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

The Alleluia – sing

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith – Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day #377 (v. 1-3, 6, 9)
Salvation unto Us has Come

1. Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.
2. What God did in His Law demand
And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on every hand
For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires
The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.
3. It was a false, misleading dream
That God His Law had given
That sinners should themselves redeem
And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

6. Since Christ hath full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Thy death is now my life indeed,
For Thou hast paid my ransom.

9. Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
Yet faith alone doth justify,
Works serve thy neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

Sermon Text – Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Offertory – sing

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: O Lord, grant that we would rejoice in the light of Christ and His salvation, and that sinners would find refuge in His mercy and comfort in His forgiveness.

**1. Gracious God, You send great blessings
New each morning all our days.**

P: Heavenly Father, embolden our congregation and all sister churches throughout the world to confess the truth steadfastly and to witness boldly to our only Savior, Jesus Christ.

**For Your mercies never ending,
For Your love we offer praise.**

P: Merciful Lord, we give You humble thanks for instituting the estate of holy marriage and for the blessing of family. Grant that these gifts would be cherished and honored in our society and especially within the household of faith.

**Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,**

P: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the witness of the faithful who lived and died in Christ. Grant that at the last we, too, may be joined with them in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His kingdom.

**Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name.**

P: Almighty Lord, bless this nation and all people in their rightful callings. Grant that we may serve our neighbors in love, and that all authorities would exercise their callings with humility and wisdom on behalf of the defenseless.

**3. In His earthly life, our Savior
Knew the care of faithful friends;**

P: Merciful Lord, grant that, in Christ, we may seek You while You may be found and call upon You while You are near, forsaking all wicked ways and unrighteous thoughts.

**May our deeds of dedication
Offer love that never ends.**

P: Loving God, we thank You for the gift of health. Hear our prayers on behalf of the sick, the aged, the infirm, the mourning or the dying [*especially* _____]. Grant them healing in accord with Your will and grace to sustain them in their need.

**4. Heav'nly Father, may our caring
Bear the imprint of Your grace;**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**With the Son and Holy Spirit,
Praise be Yours in ev'ry place!**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Sermon Hymn #441 *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

1. We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

2. May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!

3. Oh, hearts are bruised and dead,
And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled
Are straying from the fold.

4. To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless,
Is angels' work below.

5. The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christlike thing.

6. And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

Prayer

P: Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine
upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance
upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn #496
Hark! the Voice of Jesus Crying

1. Hark! the voice of Jesus crying,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting,
Who will bear the sheave away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth,
Rich reward He offers thee;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me"?

2. If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the Judgement's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

3 If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Offering life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.

4. Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the souls of men are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"

Silent Prayer

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