

Sunday, September 24, 2023
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, 17A
Pastor Kim Swenson



The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

*Please rise in body or spirit. The congregation is invited to say the **BOLD** words.*

Opening Hymn

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Cranberry#876



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
 Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
 † Jesus who bears the cross,
 the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

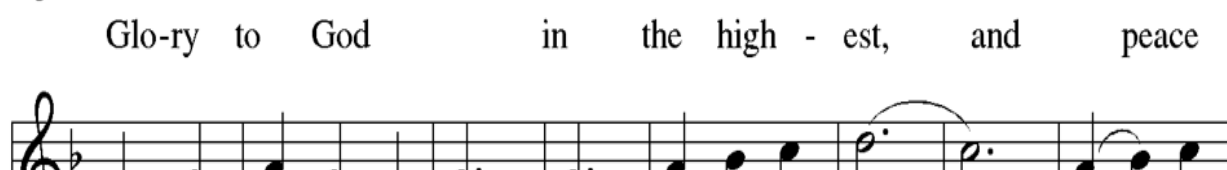
Glory to God

p 167-8

Refrain




Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



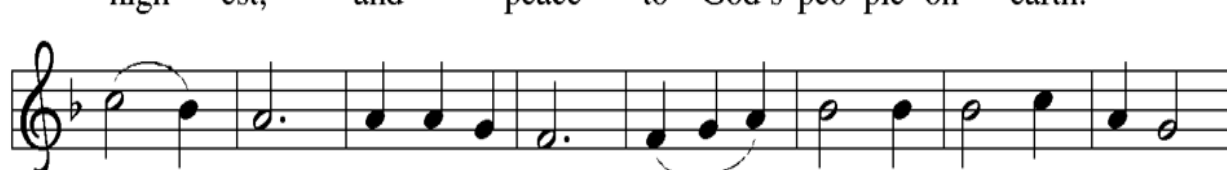
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

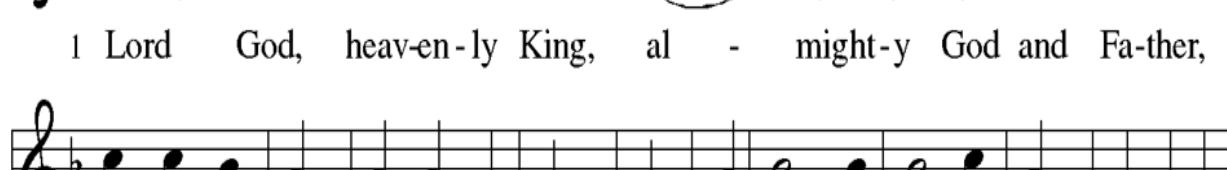


1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -



lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est.



A - men, a - men.

The Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, O Lord God, **merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

You may be seated.

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

WORD

Semicontinuous First Reading: Exodus 16:2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD. For what are we, that you complain against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.' ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted,

there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

Word of God, Word of Life, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:1-8

We will read the Psalm responsively by full verse.

¹I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**²Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

**⁴One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**⁶The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.**

⁷They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Word for All Ages

Please rise in body or spirit for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, '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.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day Lord of Light

Cranberry#688



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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Apostles' Creed

Let us together confess the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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 to the dead.***

**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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church,
creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

**Pulpit: For the color and forms of your creation and our place within it.
For our daily food, and for those whose work to bring in your bounty.
For those whose harvest is poor.
For the hungry, the war-weary, the desperate.
For those who help bring relief.**

**Lectern: For new hope and strength in our communities,
For the church in her disagreements and disputes
For those alongside whom we minister.
For all who share the tasks of ministry, and the urgency of mission.**

**Pulpit: For the light and shades of the changing seasons,
for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;**

**For those who company we enjoy,
and for those with whom we have less sympathy or mutual regard.**

Lectern: **For those who are in our care, and for those who care for us.
For our worries and our responsibilities.
For our joys and delights.
For individuals in trouble or pain.**

For what else do the people of God pray?
Silent and spoken prayers are invited

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the
prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus
Christ. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of the Lord's peace with those around you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

*The Assistant Minister hands the offering plates to the ushers and receives them
after the offering*

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.

**Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

For those worshiping at home, I invite you to take out some bread or crackers, wine or grape juice as we share in this one meal together. Please rise in body or in spirit.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them unto God.**
Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give both thanks and praise.**

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay.
Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your beauty.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.
Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your bounty.

On the night before he died he took bread, and gave thanks,
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

O God triune, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give
us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths to praise you again:
The earth is full of your blessing. Amen, and amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught friends and disciples, we are bold 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.**

*You may be seated. For those watching online, the body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you. Jesus invites you to this table.
Come, eat and live.*

Lamb of God

p 174

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 may we each other's burdens share;
 may we, where help is needed, there
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 all those who live to live in love,
 till you receive in heav'n above
 all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.

Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

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God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

Announcements

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Blessing

The God of glory,
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

May the God of Hope Go With Us ACS#984



¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz!
 May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,

Al mun - do en cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad.
 to a world in need with news of joy and peace.

Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da - nos tu luz,
 May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,

luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.
 bring-ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.

O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos
 Pray-ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our

de tu a - mor. Lu - che - mos por la paz,
 joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,

fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.
 faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

Text: Alvin Schutmaat, 1921–1988, alt.

Music: ARGENTINA, Argentine folk melody

Dismissal

Go from this place to reap the harvest of God's love.
Go from this place with God's beauty, bounty, and blessing.
Go from this place to nourish one another
sowing seeds of justice, peace, and love. **Thanks be to God.**

Please join us for food and fellowship following the service!

Postlude

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 9/17/23 \$ 29,920.80

Monthly Budget Expenses:..... \$ 21,490.00

YTD Receipts through 8/31/23..... \$ 142,198.00

Yearly Budget..... \$ 257,876.00

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister:	Doug Hanson
Reader:	Marilyn Meister
Altar Guild:	Pat Petzel
Communion Assist:	Linda Wery
Ushers:	Carl Andrews & Doug Scholes
Video Tech:	Yvonne Pamperin
Fellowship Hour:	Peace & Faith Study Group

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Thank you Peace & Faith Study Group for providing the Fellowship hour. Please if you are able to help on a future date, October, November sign up in the hallway.

Be an Angel for Hungry Children : Envelopes numbered from \$1.00 to \$100.00 are available on the Angel Board in the hallway. Money collected will benefit the Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack. A single envelope or any combination of envelopes can be selected. Just place your donation inside the envelope and place in the offering plate or bring to the church office. Children may want to select an envelope and dip into their piggy bank to care for other children. Thank you for spreading your wings!

The FMSC Mobile Pack: will again be held at Green Bay Community Church from **Monday, October 2nd to Thursday, October 5th.** Online sign-up is available now for packing and assisting with registration, greeting etc. Sign up information is available in the Bethel Herald. If you experience any difficulties signing up for a session, please reach out to Kay Zastrow at 920-660-3936. Please plan to help with one of the packing sessions.

FMSC Concert: Saturday, September 30 at St. Matthews Church, 130 St Matthews St at 6:00pm. Please see flyer on bulletin board for more information.

Final Last Sunday Supper: Today, at 5pm at Riverside Pizzeria (2822 Ramada Way). Please let Pastor Kim know if you are able to join.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Will be November 2. **We need at least 20** people signed up by October in order for the blood drive to be held here. Please sign up in the hallway as soon as you can!

Welcome to Del Bloomquist: Our new Administrative Assistant. Her hours are Tuesday – Thursday 9am to 3pm. Please stop in to say Hi to Del. We also want to thank Deb for her service. If you would like to send her a card, her address is 701 Elderberry Lane, Kaukauna WI 54130.

Please Contact the Office: For announcements to be included in the newsletter.

Pet Blessing: Outdoor service next Sunday October 1. Please bring your lawn chairs.

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Eucharist Prayer from Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks by Gail Ramshaw.
