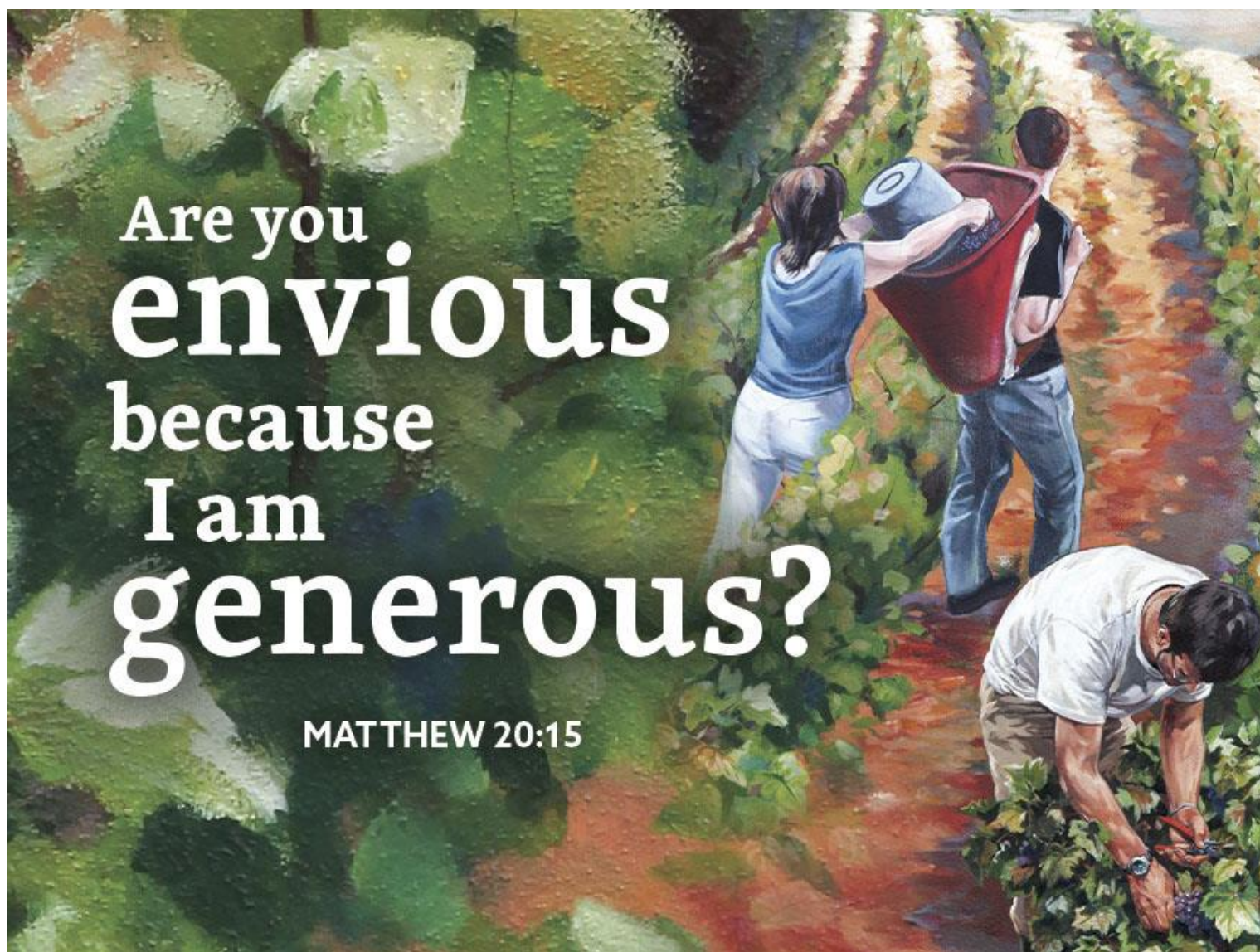


Christ Lutheran Church
115 Church Street, Duncannon, PA 17020
717.834.3140
Pastor Jennifer Toburen
Organist – Joe Abate
www.clcduncannon.org



Sunday, September 20, 2026
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost0

Prelude

Announcements

Congregation please stand

OPENING/CALL TO WORSHIP

P Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,

C God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P Whether we are longtimers or latecomers in the life of faith,

C God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,

C God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

We praise God's name forever and ever!

From: *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion – Year A Vol. 2*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long, p. 170.

Christ Lutheran Church

PREPARING

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“By Grace We Have Been Saved”

W&P 25

(Oh, How I Love Jesus)

By Grace We Have Been Saved



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and
 2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's
 3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through
 4 We know the wage of sin is death: thank
 5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by
 plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -
 Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ
 God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus
 va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.
 filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.
 died for us. We gained by God's own loss.
 rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.
 feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas: Frederick Whitfield, refrain
 Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS, North American traditional

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

Kyrie

Congregation will sing all of the Kyrie in unison.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

Generous God, you come to us again and again, no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives. Calling to us, gathering us in, you give us your good work to do, daily bread, and boundless grace. Increase in us a generous spirit so that we may do your work with joy alongside others whom you also love. We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives, but also in the lives of other people, even those we had not imagined would be included in the kingdom you are bringing. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

WORD

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145: 1-8



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- ² **Every day | will I bless you**
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.
- ⁴ **One generation shall praise your works | to another**
and shall de- | clare your power.
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.
- ⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,**
and I will re- | count your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.
- ⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

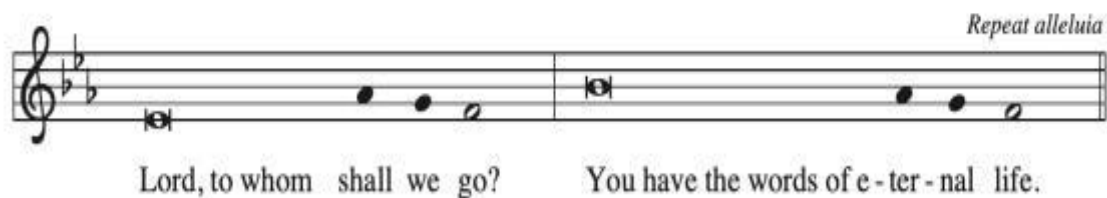
²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Congregation please stand

Gospel Acclamation



The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 20: 1-16

[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. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And 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?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When 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.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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 the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jennifer

Hymn of the Day

W&P 119

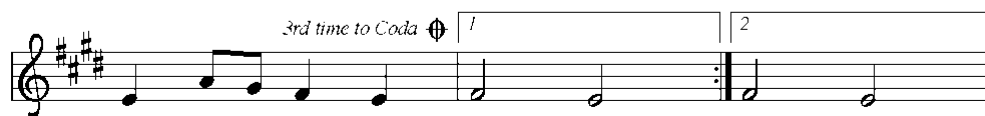
Praise to You, O God of Mercy



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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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.**

Sign of Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Prayers of Intercession

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Overcome our many injustices with your justice; overtake our desire for revenge with your great mercy.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

We pray for people who wield economic power to take notice of those whom you notice and to have compassion for those who are vulnerable. We pray for day laborers, the unemployed and the homeless..... Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need, especially those whose names we lift up now: Shirley, Allan, Charlotte, Jack, Cathy, Roxy, Karen, Darlene, Chuck, Jessie, Helen, Millie, Peggy, Glenn, Carol, Marian, John, Donna and Sandy.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Inspire us who have enough to share what we have, not in measured and resentful amounts, but gladly and abundantly.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Gather up the first and the last, the least and the greatest, in the common work of your kingdom, until there is no more first or last, for all are one in your name.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled.....Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Stewardship Snippet: Matthew 20:15 – “Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?”

God's rewards are based on His goodness and mercy, not on human bargaining or a sense of owed fairness. Everything we have belongs to God and begins with his generosity. We are never in a position to decide who deserves what. Instead, when we allow ourselves to be transformed by grace we are able to rejoice when God's goodness has reached someone else.

Lector - We will now worship God with our offering.

Offertory

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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MEAL

P Let us pray,

C Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Christ Lutheran Church

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

P 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**

P So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who are wandering still.

Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

Amen.

Please be seated

Be Known to us, Lord Jesus

Christ Lutheran Church

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Communion

Prepackaged communion is available for those who wish to remain in the pews.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

629, 474, 752

Congregation please stand

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
 2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
 till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
 till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin-ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 where Christ, the bless-ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world.
 Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit
 to live your love for others.

Amen.

SENDING

Charge

Go out this day
practicing God's strange generosity toward others,
sharing the good news with them,
and rejoicing in their well being
that you, too, may be well.

Blessing

P May the generous grace of Christ attend you,
the astounding love of God find you,
and the surprising movement of the Holy Spirit guide you,
everywhere and always.

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

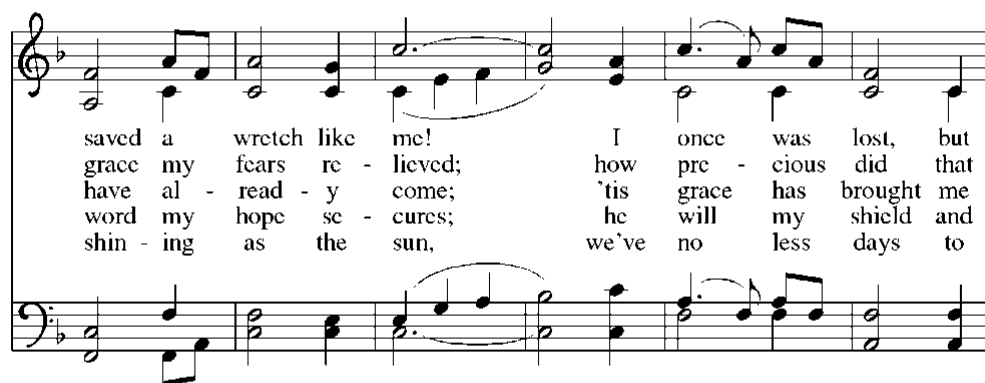
“Amazing Grace”

ELW 779

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace! — how sweet the sound — that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

P We at Christ Lutheran Church are
C **God's called, Loved Children who serve.**
P Go in Peace. The living Word dwells in you.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Sexton: Judy Swartz - Email: gammy2072@gmail.com

Prayer Concerns

Shirley Hoffman, Pat Reich, Elyse Brown, Allan Imler, Sylvia Webb & the Indian Mobile Mission, Join Hands, Loads of Love, Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Brian Proctor, Joanne Reisinger, Jackie Maguire, Jack Smith, Cathy Cavanaugh, Charlotte Dyer, Rachelle Gilcrease, Roxy Huss, Karen Ersoz, Darlene Johnson, Marian Hoffman, Ron & Nancy Moore, Chuck Hoffman, Helen Huss, Jessie Frye, Carol & Glenn Shumaker, Millie Bell, Lillian Kistler, Hope Kominek, Peggy Paden, Chris Hope, Velma Wittlinger, Lindsey Melnick, Judy Moore, Kristen Gaisior, Charlene McBride, Gay Weller, Frank Valentine, David Siegfried, Sr., John Hofer, Jesse Clouser and Family, Donna Clay, David Lozen, Jim & Vicki Smith, Brenda Malek, Sandy Hoover.

The Altar Flowers are Presented to the Glory of God
 By Nancy Carpenter
 In Loving Memory of her husband Donald on his Birthday.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector/prayers – Pam Dobbs
 Next Sunday – Hatch Dobbs

Wine – Becky Yohe
 Next Sunday – Cindy Brookhart

Grape Juice – Judy Swartz
 Next Sunday – Ann Fleisher

Altar Guild – Clyde Tota
 Next Sunday – Beverly Reifsnyder

Counters – Terry Kuhn, Velma Wittlinger
 Next Sunday – Bill Brookhart, Sue Landis

Ushers – Team 1
 Allan Imler, Ann Fleisher, Brianne Chubb,
 Adam Still, Clyde Tota

SUNDAY, September 20th, 2026

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service 11:00am – Holy Communion

Worship & Music meeting following the service.

Bible Study – 7pm - Zoom

MONDAY, September 21st, 2026

Social Ministry committee meeting – 1pm

at the home of Sue Masser.

Birthday – Janis Donaldson

TUESDAY, September 22nd, 2026

Bible Study – 1pm – Zoom

WEDNESDAY, September 23rd, 2026

CLC Book Club Discussion – 7pm – Zoom.

THURSDAY, September 24th, 2026

LWR Quilters – 1pm

Birthday – Carrie Hoffman

FRIDAY, September 25th, 2026SATURDAY, September 26th, 2026SUNDAY, September 27th13th, 2026

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship service – 11:00 am - Holy Communion

Bible Study – 7pm - Zoom

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noisy Offering – Today is Noisy Offering Sunday. All offering collected will go to Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank.

September Fundraiser - A fundraiser will be held at the Red Robin Restaurant (6560 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg) on Tuesday, September 29th from 4-8pm. CLC will receive 20% of all food sales. The Selinsgrove and Carlisle locations are also participating in this event.

October Fundraiser – Marianna's Subs & Pizza. Orders due October 4th. Delivery will be October 12th.

Pastor Jenn will be offering a five-week study session to review and discuss the ELCA Social Statement: Human Sexuality - Gift and Trust. The ELCA is currently engaged in a discernment period on possible changes to the statement and seeks feedback from church members like us. A study guide will be provided. We will meet on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 8:00, beginning on September 30.

September 30 @ Christ Lutheran

October 7 @ Mt. Zion

October 14 @ Christ Lutheran

October 21 @ Mt. Zion

October 28 @ Christ Lutheran

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Pastor Jenn.

September Meetings/Events

September 20 – Worship & Music committee meeting following worship.

September 21 – Social Ministry committee meeting – 1pm @ Sue Masser's home.

September 23 – CLC Book Club discussion – 7pm – Zoom.

September 29 – Red Robin Fundraiser – 4-8pm.

October Meetings/Events

October 4 – Marianna's sub/pizza orders due.

October 5 – Finance committee meeting – 7pm – Zoom.

October 8 – Church Council meeting – 6:30pm.

October 12 – Indigenous People Prayer service

October 18 – Newsletter deadline.

October 25 – Reformation Day Potluck Dinner following worship.

October 27 – Community Outreach committee meeting – 7pm – Zoom.

October 31 – Duncannon Treat or Treat – 6 to 8pm.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 20, 2026
LECTIONARY 25
Scandalous Grace

Jesus loved to tell strange, unsettling stories to illustrate God's grace. Theologians and biblical scholars have wrestled with the parables of Jesus for centuries, trying to make them make sense. But perhaps the beauty of these strange illustrations is that they refuse to succumb to our need for logic or neat conclusions. They are wild, confusing, and often scandalous—much like God's love for God's people.

This parable is one such story that has the power to offend us with its backward-seeming logic. A landowner who keeps inviting new laborers to join the workforce, paying them the same amount for different amounts of work? To be sure, this is not a commentary on how to run a business or abide by fair labor practices. Instead, it is a reminder of the outrageousness of God's kingdom or reign and the scandal of God's grace.

The kingdom of God functions by its own rules: It is a table where there is always room for more people, and an endless supply of bread and wine. It is a font where all are welcome, where all are invited to splash in the waters of baptism and be named children of God. It is a realm where our rules of space and time no longer apply, as we enter into ancient story and liturgy alongside the saints who have come before us. It is a sanctuary where we find the courage to confess our sins and receive God's extravagant, scandalous forgiveness. It is a community where love and justice supersede force and greed. It is a safe place where the most vulnerable are the most cared for, and generosity abounds so that all have enough. And it is a kingdom where all are invited to participate. Much like how the landowner hired new laborers until the end of the day, it's never too late to be welcomed by God's mercy!