

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

THEME: As Jesus' disciples, we follow his teaching example and joyfully seek the lost so that they too can experience the Kingdom of God.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

P: We make our beginning in the gracious name of our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

WE CONFESS OUR SINS...

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the Inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love and give appropriate praise to your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: We confess together: Most merciful God

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions, by what we have done and what we have failed to do. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your loving will and walk in your loving ways, to your praise and glory. Amen.

AND RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS:

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE LBW #165 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy' there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

[The First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-24](#)

The Lord's promise is to rescue us when we have wandered from safe places.

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

"As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and

thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

[The Second Lesson: I Timothy 1:12-17](#)

The Apostle Paul receives great comfort in these words: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners!

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

[The Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-10](#)

Jesus teaches the Pharisees and scribes an important lesson about who can receive the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is for the lost.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

[CHOIR ANTHEM](#)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN # 499 "Come Thou Fount"

*Come, thou fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore thee; May I still thy goodness prove.*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood.*

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts above.*

SERMON "First Impressions" Luke 15:1-7

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

P: Let us affirm together the faith of the Church throughout the ages:

C: I believe in God, who has created all things and continues to create new life within us.....I believe in Jesus, son of God, son of man, the Savior of the world. By His life, His death and resurrection, I can know the true depth of human possibility, and experience the true joy of an abundant life.....I believe that the Holy Spirit is present, now and always, calling us to faith, giving us gifts and empowering us for service.....I believe that the community of believers called the church can experience the fullness of life through the word, the sacraments, and all that we do.

OFFERING

We give our offerings as a sign of our lives offered to God for his use.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen!

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(after each prayer)

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Service of Holy Communion

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 him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and fitting to give thanks and praise you,
Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son,
That all those who believe in him should not perish,
But have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us
Through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
That we may receive our Lord with a living faith
As he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

DISTRIBUTION

[Hymns During Distribution:](#)

"Let us break bread together" (LBW 212)

Let us break bread together on our knees;

Let us break bread together on our knees;

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord have mercy on me.

*Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.*

*“Sent Forth by God’s Blessings” (LBW 221)
Sent forth by God’s Blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer his call.*

*With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing his children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us, With your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Now may this true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us all and keep us in his grace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING BLESSING

P: Now may the Lord bless us and keep us,
The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with his favor,
And grant us his peace.

C: Amen!

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC