

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023



## Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

**THREAD:** *Our God is incomprehensively gracious.*

### Hymn: Jesus, My Great High Priest

CW 538

1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, of - fered his blood and  
2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, will I com - mit my  
3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears for my de - fense on  
4 Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell un -  
died; my guilt - y con - science seeks no sac - ri -  
cause; he an - swers and ful - fills his Fa - ther's  
high; a gra - cious Fa - ther hears and lays his  
known put their most dread - ful forms of rage and  
fice be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -  
bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom  
thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can  
mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -  
tone, and now it pleads be - fore the throne.  
set - my Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!  
say shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.  
plays su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Glory Be to God on High**

CW 157

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,

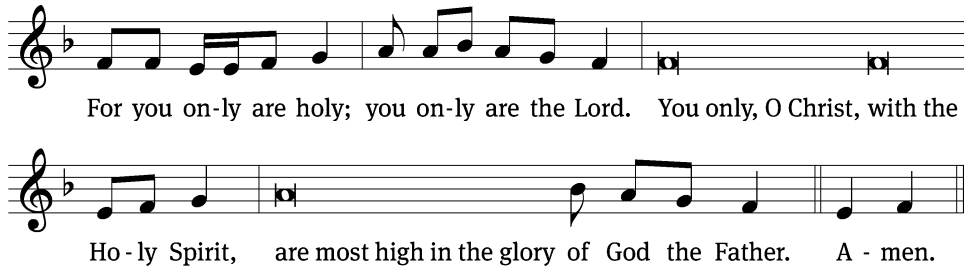
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



## THE WORD

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

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### First Reading

*Jonah 3:10—4:11*

*We know the story of Jonah. Ultimately Jonah went to Nineveh, proclaimed God’s message, the people repented and were spared destruction. Jonah was angered because he wanted Nineveh to be destroyed as they deserved. God is gracious, his promise to those who repent: mercy and pardon. We don’t get what we deserve – destruction, but rather what we don’t deserve – free pardon and forgiveness. How great is God’s grace!*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

<sup>1</sup>But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. <sup>3</sup>Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>4</sup>But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

<sup>5</sup>Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup>But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

<sup>10</sup>But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup>And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Not to Us, O LORD

Psalm 115A

### Refrain

Not to us, O LORD, but  
to your name be the glo - ry.

### Tone

Why do the nations say, “Where / is their God?”  
Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.  
The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:  
He will bless his people / Israel,  
he will bless those who / fear the LORD—  
small and / great alike. **Refrain**  
All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—  
he is their / help and shield.  
House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—  
he is their / help and shield.  
You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—  
he is their / help and shield.  
**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. Refrain**

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## Second Reading

Romans 9:6–16

*Is God fair? Simply stated – No, he’s not. He doesn’t give us what we deserve – we call it mercy. He gives what we don’t deserve – we call it grace. Paul points to God’s response to Moses declaring his inconceivable grace. Our salvation has nothing to do with our merit or worth or works, but only comes by God’s grace and mercy.*

<sup>6</sup>It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. <sup>7</sup>Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” <sup>8</sup>In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. <sup>9</sup>For this was how the promise was stated: “At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son.”

<sup>10</sup>Not only that, but Rebekah’s children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. <sup>11</sup>Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: <sup>12</sup>not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” <sup>13</sup>Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

<sup>14</sup>What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! <sup>15</sup>For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,  
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

<sup>16</sup>It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Ephesians 2:8*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—

**and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **Gospel**

*Matthew 20:1–16*

*The disciples had just asked Jesus what they would receive in the kingdom and He promised them 12 thrones. Jesus then continues with the parable of the workers in the vineyard where he emphasizes that the kingdom makes no distinction by merit or works. Thank God that he doesn't give us what we deserve, but rather what we don't deserve!*

<sup>1</sup>“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup>“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup>He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

<sup>7</sup>“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

<sup>8</sup>“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

<sup>9</sup>“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup>‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

<sup>13</sup>“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup>Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup>Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

<sup>16</sup>“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# Hymn of the Day: Salvation unto Us Has Come

CW 558



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and  
 2 What God did in his law de - mand and none to him could  
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream that God his law had  
 4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, sin held its sway un -



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and  
 ren - der caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand for man, the  
 giv - en that sin - ners could them-selves re - deem and by their  
 ceas - ing; the task was use - less and in vain, our guilt was



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who  
 vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those pure de - sires the  
 works gain heav - en. The law is but a mir - ror bright to  
 e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's poi - soned dart or



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.  
 spir - it of the law re - quires, and lost is our con - di - tion.  
 bring the in - bred sin to light that lurks with - in our na - ture.  
 pu - ri - fy our wick - ed heart, so deep is our cor - rup - tion.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>5 Yet as the law must be fulfilled<br/>             or we must die despairing,<br/>             Christ came and has God's anger stilled,<br/>             our human nature sharing.<br/>             He has for us the law obeyed<br/>             and thus the Father's vengeance stayed<br/>             which over us impended.</p>            | <p>6 Since Christ has full atonement made<br/>             and brought to us salvation,<br/>             each Christian therefore may be glad<br/>             and build on this foundation.<br/>             Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,<br/>             your death is now my life indeed,<br/>             for you have paid my ransom.</p> |
| <p>7 Let me not doubt, but truly see<br/>             your Word cannot be broken;<br/>             your call rings out, "Come unto me!"<br/>             No falsehood have you spoken.<br/>             Baptized into your precious name,<br/>             my faith cannot be put to shame,<br/>             and I shall never perish.</p>           | <p>8 The law reveals the guilt of sin<br/>             and makes us conscience-stricken;<br/>             but then the gospel enters in<br/>             the sinful soul to quicken.<br/>             Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;<br/>             the law no peace can ever give,<br/>             no comfort and no blessing.</p>       |
| <p>9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone<br/>             and rests in him unceasing;<br/>             and by its fruits true faith is known,<br/>             with love and hope increasing.<br/>             For faith alone can justify;<br/>             works serve our neighbor and supply<br/>             the proof that faith is living.</p> | <p>10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise<br/>             to Father, Son, and Spirit,<br/>             the God who saved us by his grace;<br/>             all glory to his merit!<br/>             O triune God in heav'n above,<br/>             you have revealed your saving love;<br/>             your blessèd name be hallowed!</p>          |

## **Our Lord Calls Out with Compassion**

- A. Hear His Loving Warning
- B. Repent With Your Eyes on Jesus
- C. Echo His Call to Others

*Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission  
Ministering Elder: Mark Harris*

### **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.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture.

Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith.

Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**



*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

... Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

**Offering** – *The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to:*

*Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406*

Let us pray:

God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: Not unto Us

CW 582



1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry, Lord;  
2 A - maz - ing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were made;  
3 O faith - ful love— that shep - herd - ed through faith - less years;  
4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry, Lord,



not un - to us but to your name be praise;  
a - maz - ing grace— that sent your Son to save;  
for - giv - ing love— that led us to your truth;  
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.



not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be giv'n  
a - maz - ing grace— that robed us in your right - eous - ness  
un - yield - ing love— that would not let us turn from you  
A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and done,



for match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.  
and taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.  
but sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.  
and pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

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## Silent prayer – Announcements

### Acknowledgments:

Setting One from Christian Worship

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