

THE PEACE

OFFERING PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name... For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG “Praise to You, O God of Mercy” WP119

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✠ one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

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17th Sunday after Pentecost / Pentecost 17B

September 19, 2021

THE GREETING

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.**

GATHERING SONG “Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord” WP116

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm 54
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

GOSPEL – Mark 9:30-37

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.”³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

SERMON

SERMON SONG

“All Are Welcome”

ELW641

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.

THE PRAYERS

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to form your church into the community for which you long. Help us overcome our differences and divisions, that

we might work together for the sake of your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a renewed desire to care for this world... and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. We give you thanks for another year of harvests. Teach us to share the earth’s abundance with all who hunger. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, we pray for the leaders of all nations. Take away selfish ambition, division and partisanship... and guide leaders to work for the good of all people—especially the vulnerable in our midst. Guide our leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Help us to do what we can to protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find the care they need. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism, abuse, and poverty. Open our hearts to all who mourn for loved ones... to all in need of healing, recovery and care: we pray this day for *Jeff, Deb, Tara, Rhonda, Jerry, Phil, Ann, Earle, Lisa, Gary, Jim, Jenny, Cheri, Bev, Howard, Sue, Ruth, Angela, Kathy, Laurie, Mark, Rita, Loretta, and those we name now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts...*). Bring comfort, healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Teach us to honor them and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, your surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world. We give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and who now rest in you. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**