

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 26 and 27, 2020**

In Person worship, Saturday, 5 pm and Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am  
Sunday service will be livestream on Facebook at 10:30 am

**GATHERING**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** Christ Walks In Beauty

Roger C. Wilson

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the leader begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The leader leads the following prayer of preparation.*

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**  
**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**  
**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 will and walk in your ways,**  
**to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these words.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**\*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.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9** *to be read responsively between the lector and pastor*

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

## SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## \* GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

## REFLECTION OF THE DAY

**HYMN OF THE DAY** – “O Master, Let Me Walk With You” **ELW#818** *see insert*

## + PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.  
Let us pray

*A brief silence.*

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused, neglected, hungry, exploited, or bullied. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\* GREAT THANKSGIVING – *to be spoken quietly***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

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**

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

**\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The presiding minister continues.*

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.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **COMMUNION**

*We welcome to the Lord's Table all visitors who are eligible to receive the Sacrament in their home congregation.  
The Sacrament will be distributed at the steps. Please follow the directions given by the Pastor.*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond Amen.*

### **\*TABLE BLESSING**

*The presiding minister says a table blessing, and the assembly responds*  
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.  
God of abundance, with this bread of life and  
cup of salvation you have united us with Christ,  
making us one with all your people. Now send us  
forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim  
your redeeming love to the world and continue forever  
in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE** A Grand Triumphal Chorus

Alexander Guilmant

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**Prayer Requests** – Please email, text, or call Pastor Kathy with your prayer requests. First names only will be used in our worship service that is livestreamed. Pastoral care requests may be directed in the same way.

**Our Prayers and Condolences** go out to the family of Carol Ahrensfield. Carol died September 17<sup>th</sup>. Her funeral is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2020. May she rest in the light of Christ now and forever.

**Holy Communion** – At home Communion kits are available for people who join us on Facebook for worship. Please call the church office to receive one. These kits can also be used by the pastor for a contactless Home Communion visit. If you are unable to join us in person or online and would like the Pastor to bring Home Communion to you, please call the church office to arrange a visit.

**Don't forget to make your reservation for Weekend Worship Services.** We are still under restricted attendance numbers. Reservations help us know how many to setup for Holy Communion and not turn anyone away at the door. Weekly standing reservations may be made so you don't have to make weekly calls. But don't hesitate to call at the last minute. We usually have space! Please call the church office up to 3 pm on Thursday. After that time, call or text Pastor Kathy on her cell.

**The Council of Churches of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity is holding a CROP Walk to End Hunger on World Communion Sunday, October 4.** The Walk starts and ends at the Council Food Pantry (100 Market Street) behind the old Walk In Shoe Factory, with registration beginning at 12:45 PM and devotions at 1 PM. Virtual individual and small group walks are encouraged. In this time of pandemic and natural disaster, our help to feed people is more important than ever. One-quarter of the funds raised will be returned to the Council Food Pantry. The remaining funds will be sent to Church World. CWS is always one of the first charitable organizations to respond within hours of any disaster. Additional information can be found online at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org). If you desire to walk, sponsor forms are available at the church. Those wishing to sponsor a walker can also make a donation through the church. See Pastor Kathy for any additional questions.

**Sponsor Opportunities** are available for altar flowers, bulletins, and our weekly mailings. Contact Linda in the church office for more information.

**Attendance for September 19 and 20, 2020:** 43 physically present, 104 virtual views and 3 shares as of 9/21/20. Not comfortable worshipping in person, join us for our Sunday livestream at 10:30 am or check out the recording on our Facebook page.

**Just a reminder:** Since the mail has begun to arrive at homes after the Sunday service it is meant to

support, you may request being added to the weekly email list. Please send an email to the church's email and specify if you wish to be on the email list for only the weekly mailings or for both the mailing and the newsletter. The weekly bulletin is also available on the website. The button is in the upper right-hand corner next to the online giving button. Thank you, Linda

**Office Closed:** The church office will be closed every Friday from September 18<sup>th</sup> up to and including December 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

One vase of altar flowers has been placed in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gilbert. by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Gilbert.

One vase of altar flowers has been placed in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Weller, Sr by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Gilbert.

### **STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR ONLINE GIVING/MAIL-IN/DROPPED OFF FOR LAST WEEK**

Synod/ELCA Benevolence	\$50.00
Local Benevolence	\$117.75
Current	\$1595.24
Capital Building Fund	\$35.00
Plate	\$1.00
Initial	\$6.00
<b><u>Total Received</u></b>	<b>\$1804.99</b>

QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

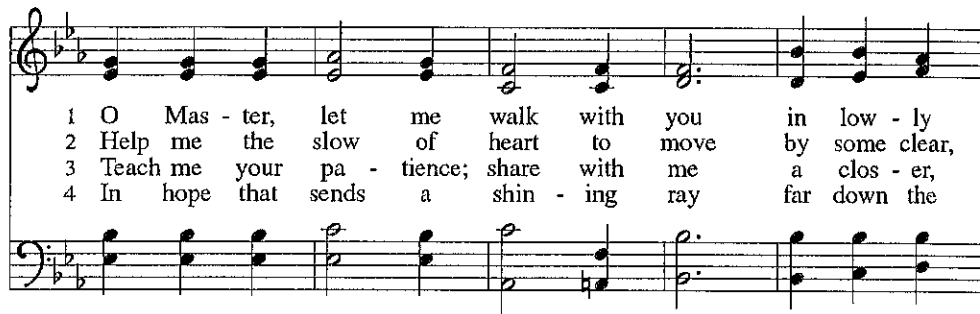


### **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**


Mon: Psalm 28; Judges 14:1-20; Philippians 1:3-14  
Tues: Psalm 28; Judges 16:1-22; Philippians 1:15-21  
Wed: Psalm 28; Judges 16:23-31; Matthew 9:2-8  
Thu: Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:14-22; Colossians 2:16-23  
Fri: Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 2:23-37; Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a  
Sat: Psalm 80:7-15; Jeremiah 6:1-10; John 7:40-52



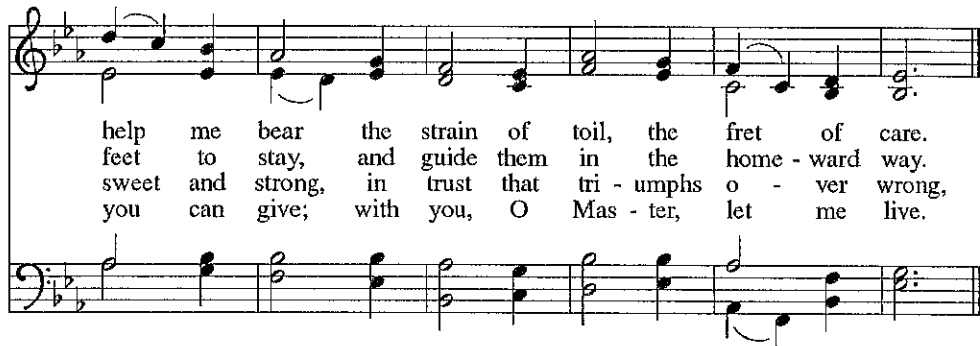
## O Master, Let Me Walk with You



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,  
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,  
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;  
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith  
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,  
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.  
 Music: MARYTON, H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898