

# The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026



*Shepherd of the Hills LC*

The Rev. Richard T. Egtvedt

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## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.  
**C; Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Compassionate God,

**C: 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.**

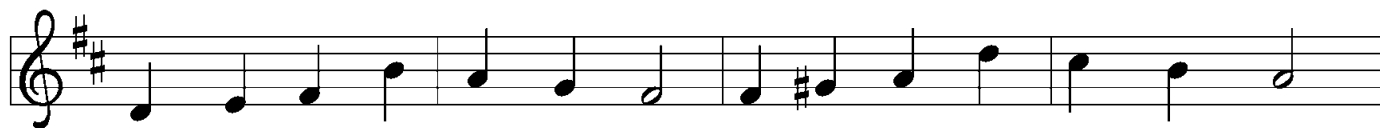
P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✚ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**C: Amen.**

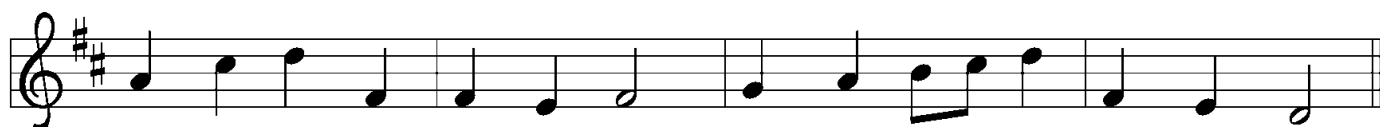


## GATHERING HYMN:

### Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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## 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.

**HYMN OF PRAISE:**

"Goodness of God"

Beth Mankin

(v. 1) I love You, Lord  
For Your mercy never fails me  
All my days, I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God  
(Chorus) And all my life You have been faithful  
And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In the darkest night  
You are close like no other  
I've known You as a Father  
I've known You as a Friend  
And I have lived in the goodness of God

*Chorus*

'Cause Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down  
I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
'Cause Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me

'Cause Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me

With my life laid down  
I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
'Cause Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me

And all my life You have been faithful  
And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God  
Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

## WORD

### THE FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

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?"

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Psalms 145:1-8** (*Read responsively*)

- 1 I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.
- 2 **Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever 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 declare 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 recount 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.**

**THE SECOND READING:** Philippians 1:21-30

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

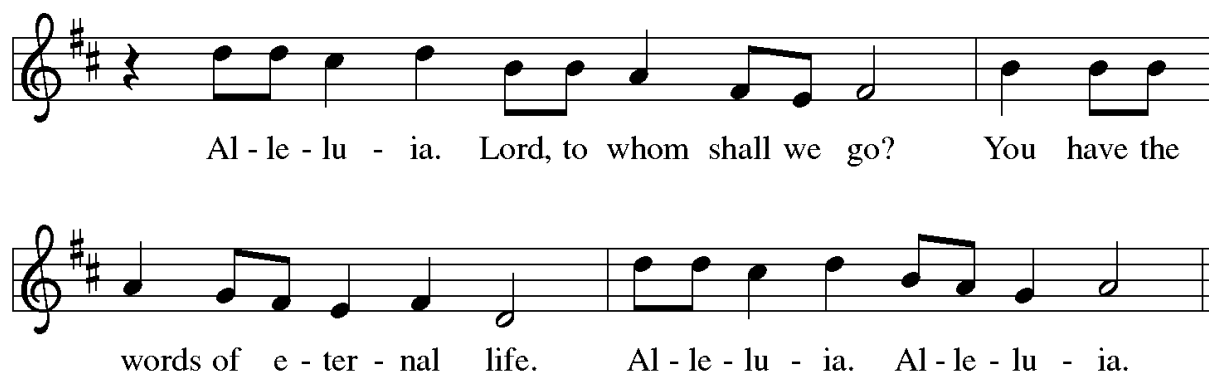
21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary 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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



## THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:1-16

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> 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?' <sup>7</sup> They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> 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.' <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> 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.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON:** Pastor Rick Egtvedt

## HYMN OF THE DAY:

### Great God, Your Love Has Called Us



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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## THE CREED

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**C: 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Hear us, O God, **C: your mercy is great.**

P: Grant the prayers we have offered.... **C. Amen.**

### Prayer Concern List:

|         |        |       |        |        |       |           |
|---------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-----------|
| Sam     | Randy  | Susie | Chris  | Mary   | Patsy | Bob & Pam |
| Mike    | George | Jerry | Dan    | Steve  | Greg  | Donna     |
| Willard | Scott. | Jack  | Leslie | Amanda | Reid  |           |

The Family of Jeff Vandine

## THE PEACE:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING:** (***DONATIONS** can either be mailed to Shepherd of the Hills, P.O. Box 374, McHenry, MD 21541 or you may donate online using this link: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=\\_s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=YXL6294BDZ82E](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YXL6294BDZ82E)*)

## OFFERING PRAYER:

A: Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **C: Amen.**

## MEAL

### DIALOG:

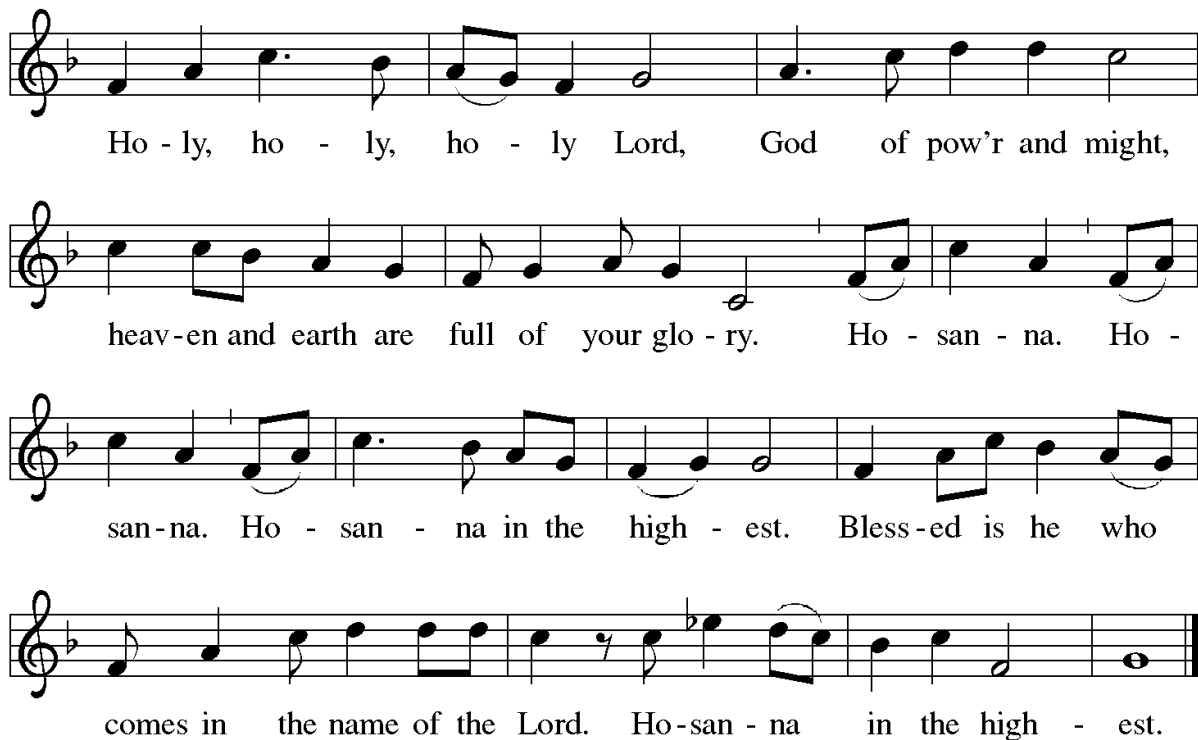
P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

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:

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray in confidence with the words our Lord taught us:

**C: 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.**

## **INVITATION:**

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION



**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:**

"Lord, I Need You" *by Matt Maher*

Beth Mankin

Lord I come, I confess  
Bowing here, I find my rest  
Without You, I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart

*Chorus:*

Lord, I need You, oh I need You  
Every hour, I need You  
My one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are, Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me

Chorus

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You  
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

Chorus

You're my one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You

My one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You

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

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

A: Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.  
**C: Amen.**

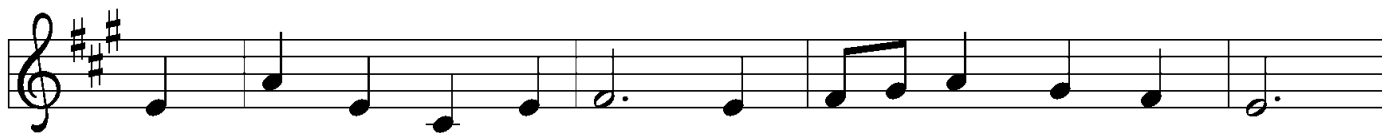
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**



## SENDING HYMN:

### Rise Up, O Saints of God!



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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**A:** Let us remind ourselves of Shepherd of the Hills' Statement of Purpose:

**C:** God's purpose for Shepherd of the Hills is to live in witness to Jesus Christ, helping one another to experience God's life-changing love, proclaiming the Gospel, and welcoming the diverse community at Deep Creek Lake.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL:**

**A:** Go out with joy! Be led forth in peace!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

