

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Susan Roegge & the Faith Singers – “The Creation Song,” by Shawna Edwards

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

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 you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Sing, Sing, Sing”

(Youth)

**We will sing, sing, sing and make music with the heavens.
We will sing, sing, sing, grateful that You hear us
When we shout Your praise, lift high the name of Jesus. *Repeat***

**What's not to love about You? Heaven and Earth adore You.
Kings and kingdoms bow down. Son of God, You are the One,
You are the One we're living for.**

**You are the One that frees us. You are the light that leads us,
Like a fire burning, Son of God, You are the One,
You are the One we're living for.**

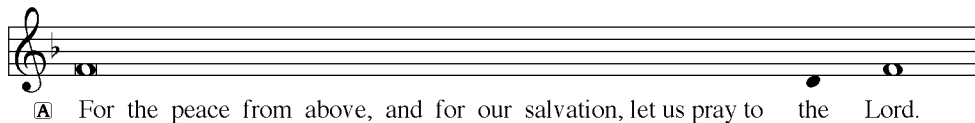
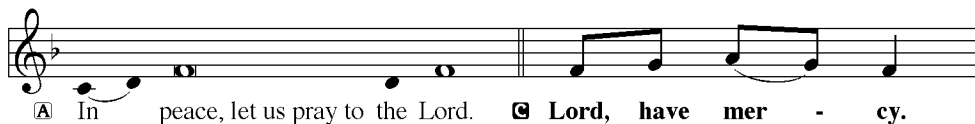
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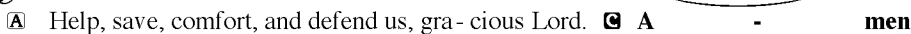
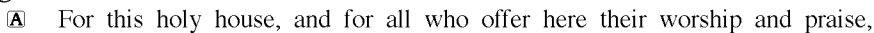
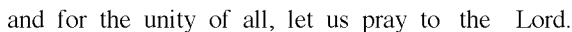
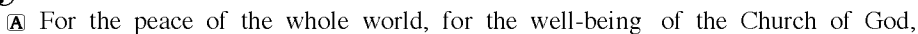
**Greeting*

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.**

**Kyrie*





(organ)

1 **To God be the glory, great things he has done;
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in.**

*Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he has done.*

2 **Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. *Refrain***

3 **Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. *Refrain***

**Prayer of the Day*

P: God of promise, you set a bow in the sky to remind us that you will never again forsake your creation. Make us ever mindful of your promise, so that we might honor our covenant with you. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

WORD

Reading: Genesis 6:11-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17

Reader: Liddy Stark

¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God saw that the earth was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth.

¹³And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

¹⁴Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. ¹⁵This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. ¹⁶Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. ¹⁷For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. ¹⁸But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹And of every living thing, of all

flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. ²⁰Of the birds according to their kinds and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. ²¹Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up, and it shall serve as food for you and for them.” ²²Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

⁶At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷and sent out the raven, and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. ⁸Then he sent out the dove from him to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground, ⁹but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. ¹⁰He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark, ¹¹and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. ¹²Then he waited another seven days and sent out the dove, and it did not return to him any more.

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 8:24-27*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 8th chapter.

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

²⁴A windstorm suddenly arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves, but he was asleep. ²⁵And they went and woke him up, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” ²⁶And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, you of little faith?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a dead calm. ²⁷They were amazed, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”

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

Song – “Have No Fear Little Flock” ELW 764

(piano)

**1. Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!**

**2. Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you in his love forever; have good cheer, little flock!**

**3. Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,
For he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you; praise the Lord high above!**

**4. Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God,
For he stays close beside you, in all things works with you;
thankful hearts raise to God!**

Sermon: “Flood and Promise”

Song of the Day – “Before the Waters Nourished Earth” (ACS 1049)

(organ)

- 1 Before the waters nourished earth or night imagined morning,
a Love conceived the universe and reveled in its forming.**
- 2 This Love remained as time revealed the loss of Eden's glory
and, grieving, holds in memory each tragic human story.**
- 3 Despair, so deep it bears no name, or sorrows paralyzing
cannot revoke Love's faithful claim to dwell within our dying.**
- 4 The Love that called creation good all goodness still is bringing.
This Love turns death again to life and silence into singing.**

**The 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.

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

*"Covenant Song," by Shawna Edwards
sung by Faith Singers and Brinley Lobb*

*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are
communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—*

**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful God,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SACRAMENT 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 our thanks and praise.

P: 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.

**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 Songs

“Be Thou My Vision” ELW 793

(organ)

1. **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
2. **Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**
3. **Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
4. **Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

“By Grace We Have Been Saved” (ACS 1006) (piano)

*Refrain: By grace we have been saved—saved by grace through faith,
not because of what we do; it is the gift of God.*

- 1 **On the days when you are weak, on the days when you are strong,
rich or poor, young or old, just listen to the song. *Refrain***
- 2 **Rest your body, rest your mind, in the stillness you will find
you're a lovely, precious child, part of the great design. *Refrain***
- 3 **You don't need to be afraid. You will never be alone.
There is mercy, there is hope, and love will take you home. *Refrain***

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “May the God of Hope Go with Us” (ACS 984) (piano)*

**May the God of hope go with us ev'ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to ev'ry land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

“Sing, Sing, Sing,” by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Matt Gilder, Matt Gilder, Travis Nunn,
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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Ken Devlin

Greeter: Vicki Robson

Reader: Liddy Stark

Usher: Judy Dillard

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Susan Roegge

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Mindy Carlson & Patty Nelson

Chancel Committee: Kim Heise

Coffee Host: Liddy Stark

Singers:

Maddie Crossin

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Kevin Krohe

Monica Proefrock

Cory Street

Greg Kimler

Patty Nelson

Kay Schnitker

John Williams



What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, September 20, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Fall Fest Planning in the Great Room

10:45am: Bible Study in the Justice Room

Wednesday, September 23, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Sunday, September 27, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Retirement Reception

Wednesday, September 30, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Saturday, October 3, 8:00am: Cooking for

9:00am: Men's Breakfast in the Great Room

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock and Faith's Older Flock

We now have two groups of children meeting during worship on the Sundays we are inside. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7, and Faith's Older Flock is for children grades 1-6.

Read the Bible in a Year

Please join us in reading the New Testament, starting October 1. We will meet weekly on Wednesdays from October 7 through December 31, from 10:00-11:00am in the Library, to discuss the reading for each week. By December 31, we will have read the entire New Testament. If you would like more information and the reading schedule, please contact Pam Devlin at 217-473-7375 or pdevlin56@gmail.com. God's Blessings to all.

Post-Service Discussions – Digging Deeper

in the Justice Room. Join us for exploring the new sermon series based on the Lectionary.

New Faith Telephone Directory

We will be printing a new Faith Directory soon and would like to update any new information you might have. Please make changes directly onto the copy at the Coffee Sales counter. Thank You!

Help Make Faith's Fall Fest Fantastic

Fall Fest is right around the corner, and you're invited to help shape one of Faith's most fun and festive events of the year. **Join the planning team in the Great Room right after worship today**, to brainstorm activities, map out details, and bring creative ideas to life.

Whether you love organizing, decorating, dreaming up games, or simply enjoy being part of a joyful community event, your energy and imagination will make a big difference. Come be part of the team that makes Fall Fest happen — it's a great way to connect, contribute, and have fun along the way. If you can't be at the meeting but would like to help, reach out to Monica Proefrock at monica.proefrock@gmail.com.

Retirement Receptions for Kris Roth & Jean Welch

Our congregation is giving thanks for the partnership in ministry we have shared with two of our beloved staff members - Kris Roth as our Secretary and Jean Welch as our Music Director. All are invited to gather in gratitude and celebration as they enter retirement. Two receptions will be held to offer heartfelt opportunities to share memories, express appreciation, and bless Kris and Jean as they step into this new chapter.

A reception honoring Kris Roth will be held following worship on Sunday, Sept. 27, and a reception for Jean Welch will take place following worship on Sunday, October 4.

All are welcome to attend.

If you would like to contribute to a retirement gift from the congregation, please indicate "Kris retirement" or "Jean retirement" on your check or envelope so your gift can be directed appropriately. Your generosity will help celebrate their years of faithful service and the many ways they have enriched the life of our Faith family. Thank you Kris and Jean! You have been such a blessing to us and we give thanks to God for the ministry you have shared together!

SUNDAY SACK LUNCHES TO GO -- Help stop hunger in our community

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is partnering with Go Church to collect food items for their 'Sunday Sack Lunches to Go' program, helping the hungry in the Jacksonville Area.

Collected supplies will be donated to Go Church to include in their food distribution program. Monetary donations are appreciated and needed, with checks payable to 'Go Church.' Items will be collected **through today**. Supplies can be left in the blue collection box in the Mission & Ministry Center (coat closet).

Questions? Contact coordinator Pat Glyshaw at pat.glyshaw@gmail.com