



*Seventeenth Sunday
After Pentecost
September 20, 2026*



The Gathering

*The assembly's parts are in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, all who have labored long, and all who are just arriving.

God's grace is generous, and God's welcome is for all.

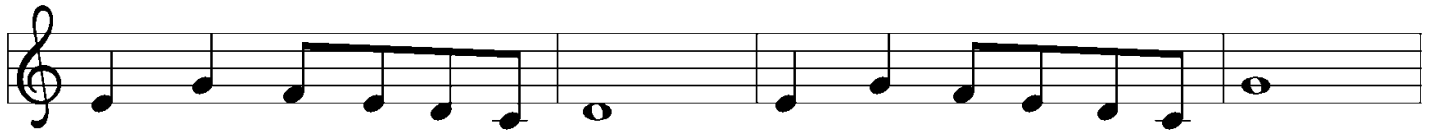
The last will be first, and the first will be last.

Come, let us worship our generous God!

GATHERING SONG

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;

Take, oh, take me as I am; find the ver - y best in me.

Take, oh, take me as I am; gra - cious God, I'm blest to be



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

let the love with - in my heart grow cease - less - ly.

liv - ing in the light of your great gifts to me.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

God of goodness and mercy,

**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.

Hear the Good News! Because of God's infinite grace, God has compassion for our mistakes and failures, forgives us all our sins, and calls us to follow the way of love. **Amen!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Generous God, your grace is greater than we can measure and your love is freely given. Free us from comparing ourselves to others, and open our hearts to rejoice in your generosity. Teach us to trust that there is always enough grace to go around; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The Word

The psalmist praises God's graciousness and love.

A responsive reading from Psalm 145:1-8.

Glory to you, O Lord.

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.

**They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

The Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 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?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

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.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

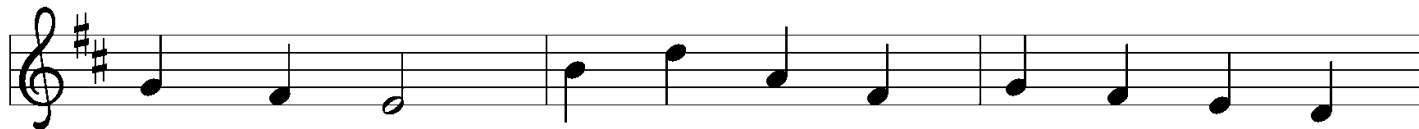
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY Will You Let Me Be Your Servant Vs 1,2,4,5 ELW 659



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Gracious God,

You hear our prayer.

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Gracious God,

You hear our prayer.

Guide employers to ensure fair and equal pay for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Gracious God,

You hear our prayer.

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need, especially those we now name out loud or silently in our hearts. *(30 seconds of reflection)* Gracious God,

You hear our prayer.

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Gracious God,

You hear our prayer.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Gracious God,

You hear our prayer.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Meal

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, thank you for all that you have given us. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

INVITATION

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.

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.

Yet we remember, on 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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith and with your people worldwide. **Amen.**

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, 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 TO THE TABLE

Come and receive Jesus, who welcomes all to his table.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us at Christ's table. Strengthen us by your grace to live as your faithful people, sharing your love with all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sending

BLESSING

The God of love unite you in Christ.

The God of hope fill you with joy.

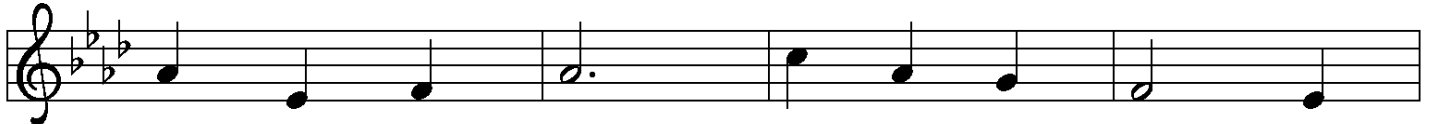
The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

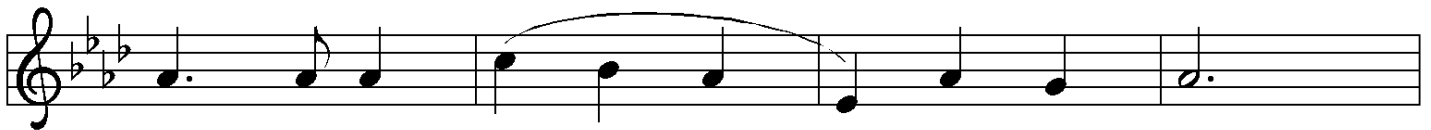
SENDING SONG

Earth and All Stars!

ELW 731



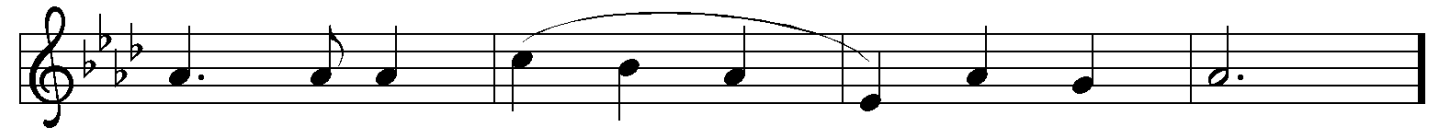
1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class-rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl-edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



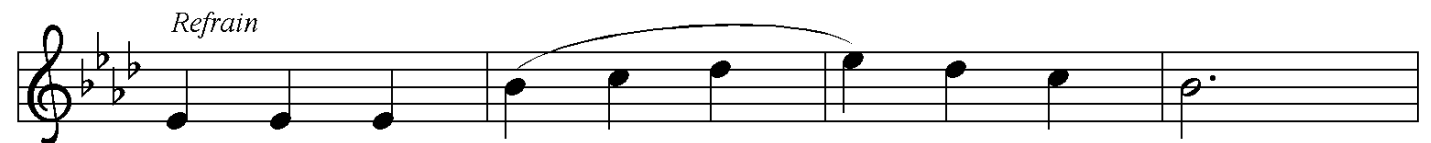
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail,	wind,	and	rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Lime - stone	and	beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!	
Ath - lete	and	band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!	
Daugh - ter	and	son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!	



Sing to the Lord a new song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Rev. Courtney Geibert Minister of Music: Terry Williams
Pianist: Von Bringhurst

Cover Art: "Heart of the Golden State" by Jennifer Vranes

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