

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 24, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Gathering

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Holy Mana Arr. Wilbur Held

INTROIT I Will Call Upon the Lord Composer: Michael O' Shields

Gathering Around the Word

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

Many: Great is our God and greatly to be praised.

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

Many: This generation will tell the next generation so they may tell the next generation of the Holy One's magnificent and mighty acts.

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

Many: We declare the abundant goodness, gracious righteousness, and holy love of our God. Praise the Holy One!

HYMN Come Ye Sinners

1. Come, ye people, poor and needy, weak, and wounded, sick, and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

Refrain:

I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me with his arms;
in the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

2. Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh. (Refrain)
3. Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. (Refrain)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Mighty God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

God of abundance, forgive us for embracing a worldview that capitalizes on scarcity. Help us to know that you have given us enough for our journey. You have created us wonderfully and uniquely. Forgive us for comparing ourselves with our neighbor when we are called to love them. Help us to embrace how you have made us as individuals who may bring our singular gifts to our common life.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, you are enough. God loves you as you are for who you are. We, collectively, have enough and may share in a common life where all may flourish and live in harmony as our Creator intended and designed. You are forgiven and free to embrace the life that is uniquely yours.

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER ["Sins"]

ANTHEM Down to The River to Pray Arr. Stephen Curry

The Word

SCRIPTURE Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Philippians 1:21-30

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.

Matthew 20:1-16

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

SERMON

"Work?"

Responding to the Word

OFFERING

Invitation to Generosity

Philippians 1:2 encourages us to “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.” May we live generous lives that reflect the fullness of the gospel, unity of the spirit, and faith in our God and God’s church.

Offertory

1. Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in —the lost and forsaken, gather us in the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2. Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, Give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion, lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

3. Not in the dark of building confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in all peoples
together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

Great God, please receive our gifts for the glory of your name and the blessing of your people. May we be dedicated stewards of your abundance and use these gifts for the benefit of your kingdom. Amen.

HYMN

Gather Us In

Sending the Word

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Arr. Paul Taylor



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