

+ Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 2020

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+ Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Order for Worship

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel, the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by God's Word, we offer ourselves for the sake of our needy world.

Prelude

Welcome

 Gathering Hymn
 Blessed Assurance
 ELW 638

 Image: State of the state

this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. 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. **C: Amen.**

Reading – Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What 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"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know 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.

²⁵Yet 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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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?

³⁰Therefore 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. ³¹Cast 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? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

Psalm 25: 1-9

The psalm will be spoken. People of the assembly are invited to respond with the verses in bold. ¹To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.
⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.
⁹You lead the lowly in justice

and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading – Philippians 2: 1-13

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

⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of deatheven death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, 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; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for God's good pleasure.

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

Gospel Acclamation

P: Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me. Alleluia.

Gospel – Matthew 21: 23-32

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [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?" ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So 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.

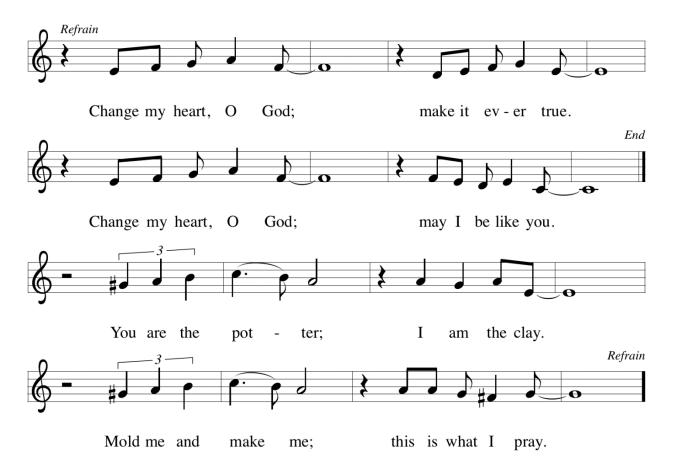
²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two 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. ³²For 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."

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

Children's Word

Children's Song

Sermon



Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953 Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyeard Publishing, admin. Music Services All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

Thanksgiving for the Word

P: Let us pray.

P: Glory to you, O God, for your creative Word: making and mending all things, evoking the cosmic hymn of praise, and singing a love-song for your beloved: your vineyard, your flock, your people. With all creation we sing, Glory! **C: Glory!**

P: Blessed are you for your liberating Word: speaking through Moses and the prophets,

encountered in the Gospels, and proclaimed in the assembly: your freedom, forgiveness, and life for the world. With the whole world we say, Blessing! **C: Blessing!**

P: Holy are you, O God, for your living Word: among us wherever we gather, welcoming everyone to your feast, and, with grace and generosity, bringing to earth the kingdom of heaven. With saints and angels, we cry, Holy! **C: Holy!**

P: Clothe us in your loving Spirit, flowing from the Crucified and Risen One, and keep us awake to your presence in the people and places you call us to serve. Glory, praise, and blessing are yours, Holy God, now and forever. Amen. **C: Amen.**

Prayers of the People

P: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and for all who are in need.

After each petition P: God of mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy, loving God; through Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

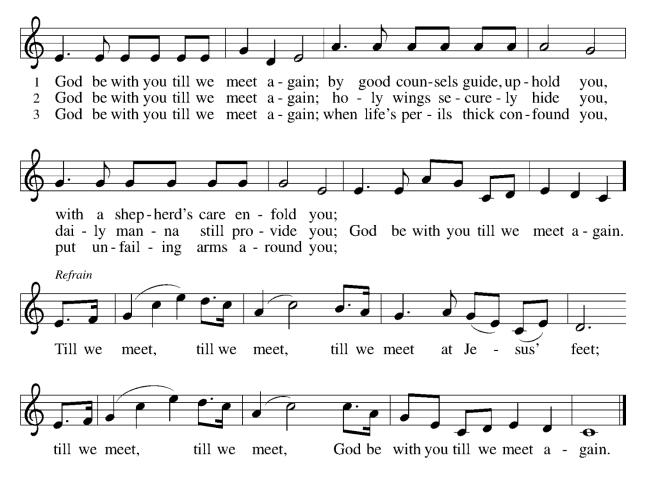
Benediction

P: Mothering God, the + Holy Trinity, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn God Be with You Till We Meet Again Following Page



Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding MinisterL: LectorC: Congregation

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

Those serving in worship today

Prelude Welcome Lector Psalm Lector Children's Song Sending Hymn

Minister of Music Director of Faith Formation Presiding Minister Sarita Doshi Pastor Ross Carmichael Jessica Smith Welker Joseph Paetz Jennifer Aitken Stoyko Elsa van Beek Kristen Asplin and Maria Mangano Amy Bartoli Christopher Atwood Pastor Ross Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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