St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 20, 2026
9:30 AM

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

St. Timothy Lutheran joyfully welcomes all people of any race, national origin, age, gender, ability, relationship status, political affiliation or sexual orientation, whether you are a believer, doubter or seeker. We welcome all because God welcomes all. Sharing and learning from our different experiences and ideas about life and faith, we live the love of Christ together.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Please stand if you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Compassionate God,
We confess to you all the sin that weighs us down. We are burdened by self-serving attitudes, we claim your power as our own, we hurt others with greed and disrespect, we knowingly and unknowingly hoard the gifts of your grace. In your mercy replace our sin with your freeing love; for your yoke is easy and burden is light. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN….. **"Take My Life that I May Be"**..... …#**583**

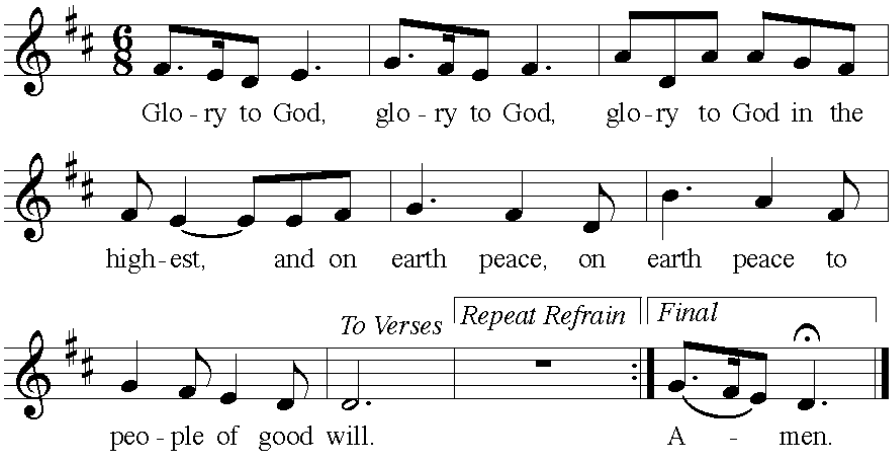
GREETING

The grace of our lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

And also with you.

GLORY TO GOD

Choir sings verses, congregation sings refrain



PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S ACCLAMATION

Cast your burdens - unto Jesus
For He cares - for you
Higher higher higher
Higher higher higher
Higher higher higher
Lift Jesus higher higher

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Please be seated.

FIRST READING .....*Jonah 3:10-4:11*

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?"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

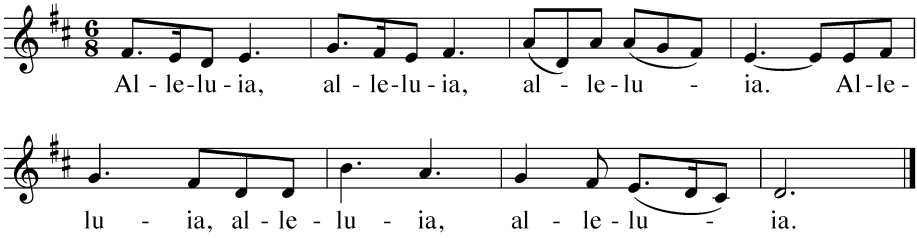
21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh,
that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 23 I am
hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for
that is far better, 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twentieth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING .....*Matthew 20:1-16*
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ..... *Pastor Sarah*

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY……**"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"**..... **#669**

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

The pastor will end each petition with:

Lord, in your mercy,

The congregation is invited to respond with:

Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY ..... "I Love You, Lord" ..... *J. Schrader/Klein*

Please stand if you are able.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, we bring to your table the gifts of our hearts and our best efforts to respond to your generosity. Help us let go and take heart. It is your grace that moves our offering to bless the world you so love. Receive these gifts, and make of them more than we could ask or imagine, through the Spirit who abides with us, now and forever. **Amen**.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

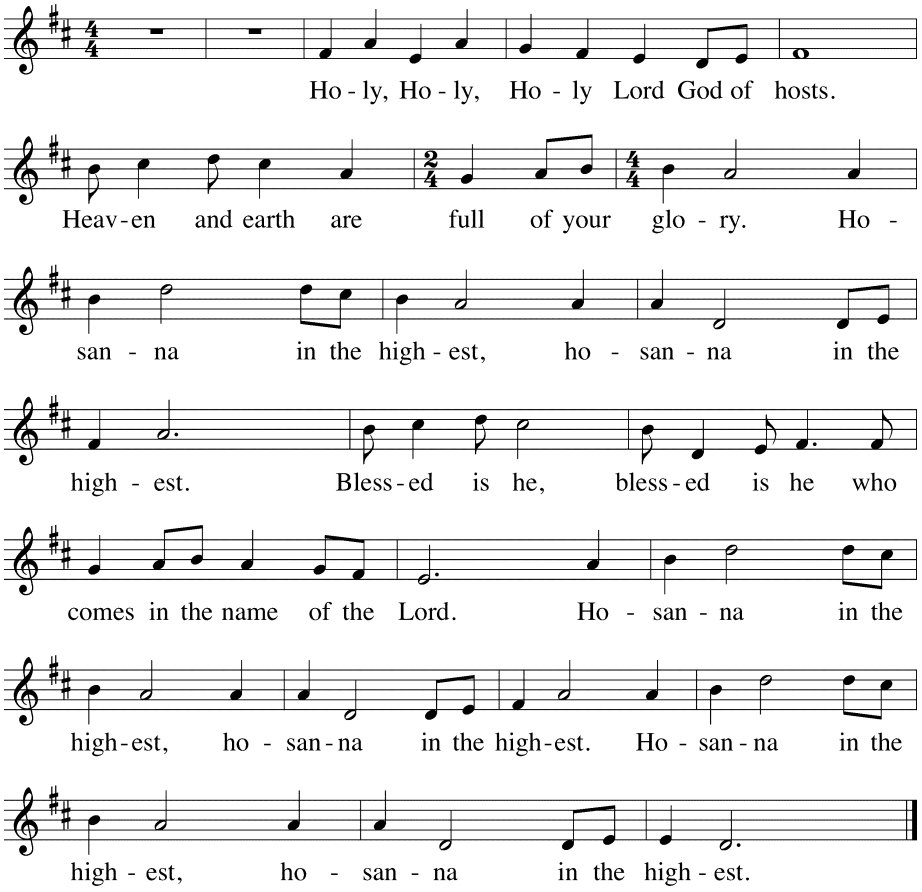
And also with you.

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…we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

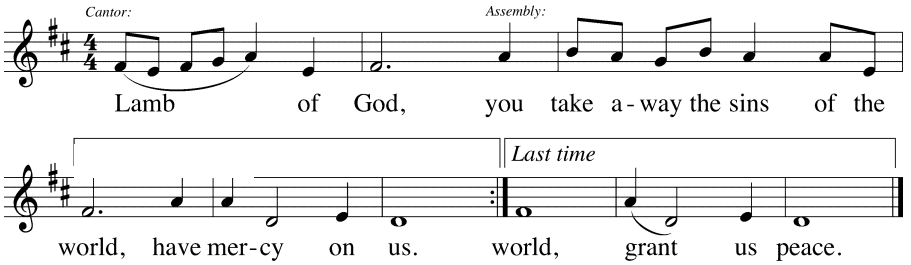
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

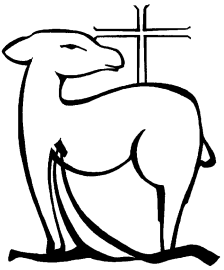
Distribution of Communion

All people are invited to the Lord's table of grace. We offer Holy Communion by individual glass, ***the red glasses are filled with wine and the white glasses are grape juice****.* ***Gluten free*** *wafers are available from a pastor upon request. If you prefer to receive communion at your pew, just let the usher know. Children who have not yet received Holy Communion instruction are invited forward to receive a blessing as well as anyone who doesn't want to receive communion.*

LAMB OF GOD



Repeat 3 times



COMMUNION HYMN..**"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"** ..... **#767**

Please stand if you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen**.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor ☩ and give you peace. **Amen**.

SENDING HYMN…... **"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"**……...**#674**

DISMISSAL

People of God, what are we called to do? **Live the love of Christ!**
In that love, go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

If you are a visitor, we welcome you as siblings in Christ as together we "Live the love of Christ." We are happy you are here, and we would like to get to know you. As you leave the sanctuary, we invite you to introduce yourself to the pastors and complete a yellow "Visitor Card". You may give the card to one of the pastors or drop it in the offering plate.

If you wish to request prayers for yourself, family members or friends, please email them to prayerline@sttimothylutheran.com. Our Prayer Line members will join you in praying for anyone who needs your prayers.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Pastors:	Jason Anderson, Lead Pastor Sarah Swindall, Associate Pastor
Staff:	Christina Maki, Children's Ministry Coordinator Derek Howell, AV Tech Coordinator Joe Menard, Organist / Choir & Bell Director Kirsten Holzhauer, Keyboardist / Accompanist Nicole Goodfellow, Ministries Coordinator Susie Merrihew, Licensed Clinical Social Worker Susan Moraski, Office Administrator

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