

Traditional Worship

July 26, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 17

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith.

*In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God:
a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl,
a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign,
the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision – arr. Dale Wood

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #532 *

Gather Us In

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose kingdom grows among us,
whose mercy is beyond measure,
whose love endures forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Leader: Trusting in God's abundant grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Merciful God,

Assembly: we confess that we have sinned against you
and against one another.

We have failed to treasure the gifts you have entrusted to us.

**We have sought security in the things of this world
instead of the riches of your kingdom.**

**We have overlooked your quiet work among us,
hesitated to trust your wisdom,
and neglected opportunities to love and serve our neighbors.**

Forgive us.

**Plant your word deep within us, renew us by your Spirit,
and teach us to seek first your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Amen.

Leader: God is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

In Jesus Christ, God has forgiven us all our sins.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, God renews us for abundant life
and sends us to share the good news of God's kingdom.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *

Glory to God



PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray.

Beloved and gracious God,
you reveal the riches of your kingdom through the humble,
the hidden, and the unexpected.
Grant us the wisdom to recognize your presence,
the faith to treasure your gifts above all else,
and the courage to follow Christ with joyful hearts.
By your Holy Spirit, shape us into faithful disciples,
that our lives may bear witness to your abundant grace
and your saving love;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

I Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 119:129-136

*The cantor sings the Psalm Refrain and then the assembly joins in the refrain.
The cantor then sings the verses and the assembly joins in each refrain.*



- ¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore, I obey them with all my heart.
- ¹³⁰ When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.
- ¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
- ¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name...*Refrain*
- ¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- ¹³⁴ Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.
- ¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

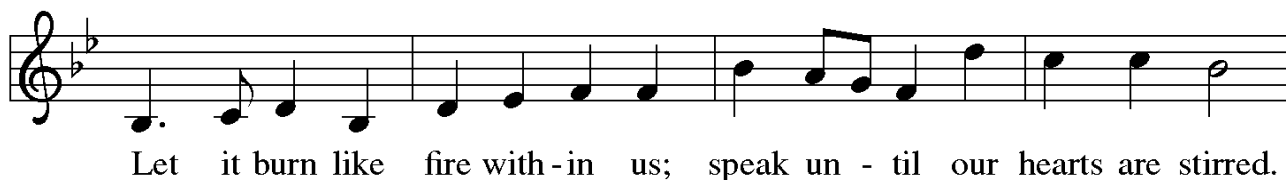
"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #793 *

Be Thou My Vision

APOSTLE'S CREED *

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "God of grace,"

Assembly: hear our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "the abundant grace of Christ Jesus."

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: **And also with you!**

*The assembly greets each other with
"peace be with you...and also with you."*

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.

If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



8:00 – *The Lord's Prayer* – Michael Head

10:45 – *When Peace Like a River* – arr. Depp/Baker

See Hymn #785 for text.

OFFERTORY *

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Musical notation for the first line of the Offertory. It consists of a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics "Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;" are written below the staff.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

Musical notation for the second line of the Offertory. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics "praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost." are written below the staff.

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

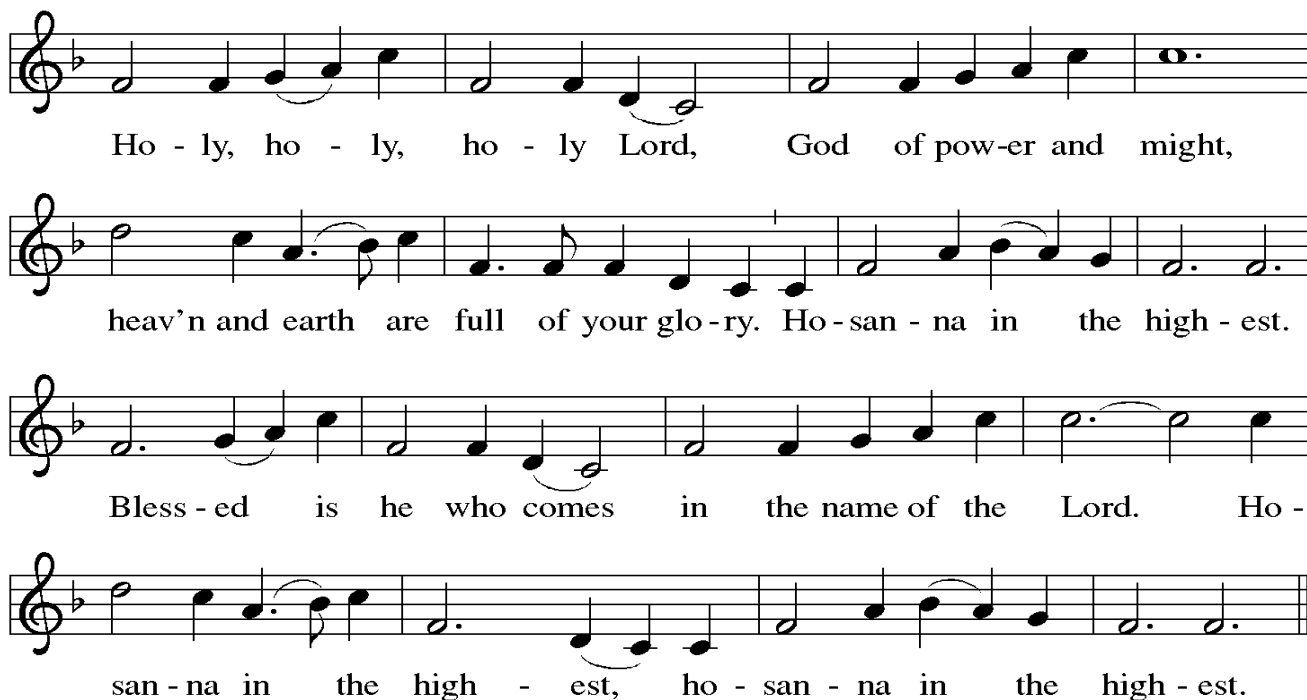
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: 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.

By his life, death, and resurrection
he has revealed the priceless treasure of your kingdom,
calling us to seek your wisdom,
to trust your abundant grace,
and to rejoice in the gift of salvation.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
- Staff 2: heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
- Staff 3: Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
- Staff 4: san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

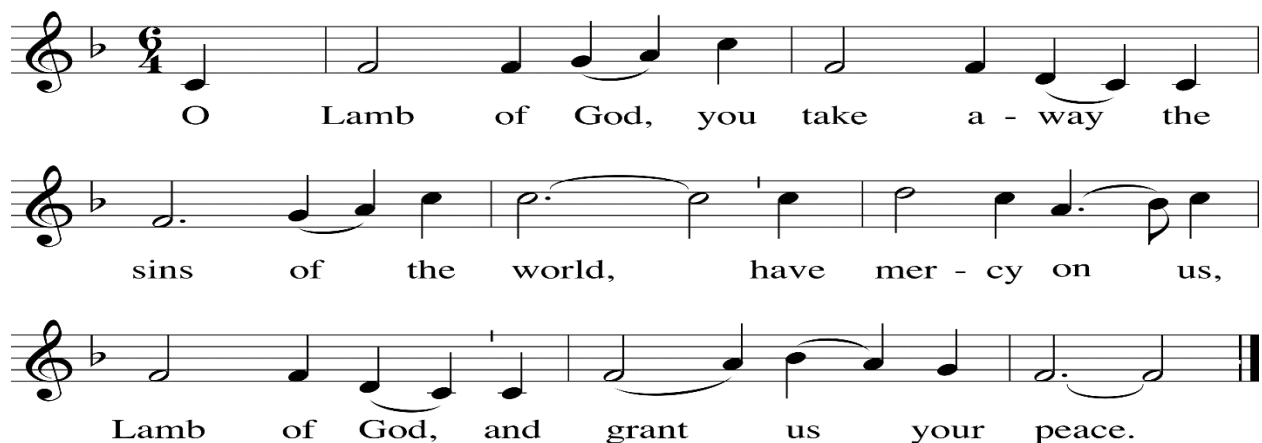
Leader: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: The table is prepared.
 Come, share in the feast.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Hymn at Distribution – *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

Organ Meditation – arr. Wayne Wold

Hymn #775

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,
 in this meal you have nourished us
 with the priceless gift of Christ
 and strengthened us by your steadfast love.

Send us now into the world to seek your kingdom above all else,
 to share your mercy with our neighbors,
 and to bear the fruit of your Spirit with joy and hope;
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: The God who gives wisdom,
 the Christ who is the treasure of heaven,
 and the Holy Spirit who nurtures faith within you,
 ✠ bless you and keep you,
 now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #547 *

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
 Share the treasure of God's kingdom with the world.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *

Sent Forth by God's Blessing – arr. John Behnke

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
George Schuliger, Lector & Communion Assistant 8:00
Joe Weaver, Lector & Communion Assistant 10:45
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Robin Terschak, Cantor
Linda Depp, Harmonica & Vocal Soloist 10:45

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in memory of our loved ones
by Doug & Suzanne Adams.*

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