

Contemporary Worship

September 27, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 26

GATHERING MUSIC

May the Peoples Praise You – Zimmer/ Cash/Getty/Townend

*You have called us out of darkest night, into Your glorious light,
That we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ.*

*May our every breath retell the grace that broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy, with endless life.*

*May the peoples praise You, let the nations be glad!
All Your blessing comes that we may praise,
May praise the Name of Jesus.*

*All the earth is Yours and all within, each harvest is Your own,
And from Your hand we give to You, to make Christ known.
May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard,
May songs of praise build lives of grace to spread Your Word.*

*This our holy privilege to declare Your praises and Your name
To every nation, tribe, and tongue Your church proclaim.*

*Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty.
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb who was slain.
Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty.
All creation praise Your glorious Name.*

WELCOME

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING SONG *

Speak, O Lord

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

- Verse 1: Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
 To receive the food of Your holy Word.
 Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
 Shape and fashion us in Your likeness.
 That the light of Christ might be seen today,
 In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
 Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
 All Your purposes, for Your glory.
- Verse 2: Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
 Holy reverence, true humility.
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes,
 In the radiance of Your purity.
 Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
 Your majestic love and authority.
 Words of power that can never fail;
 Let their truth prevail over unbelief.
- Verse 3: Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds.
 Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
 Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
 That will echo down through eternity.
 And by grace we'll stand on Your promises.
 And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
 Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
 And the earth is filled with Your glory.

"Speak, O Lord" words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When [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?" ²⁴ Jesus 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. ²⁵ Did 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?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So 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.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which 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. ³² For 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."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG *

Change My Heart, O God

Chorus: Change my heart, O God. Make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God. May I be like You.

Verse: You are the potter, I am the clay;
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray...*chorus*

*"Change My Heart, O God" words and music by Eddie Espinosa
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PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "Hear us, O God,"

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "We ask this in Jesus' name."

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.

OFFERING

As for Me – Barrett/Tomlin/Ingram

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 are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.



*Your love, oh Lord, is strength to my soul, hope for tomorrow, it won't let go.
Your presence is the joy of my life. To You I lift my eyes.*

*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
We will sing of Your love forevermore.
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

*Your word alone, a lamp to my feet, a light to my path as You're leading me.
Your ways, oh Lord, are higher than mine. To You I lift my eyes.*

Open up every door, write it on every wall, sing it in every room.

CONFESSION *

Leader: As we come before God, we come honestly—with all that is good in our lives,
but also with the things we carry, the things we regret,
and the ways we have fallen short.

Let us pray.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Gracious God,

Assembly: we confess that we do not always live as you call us to live.

**We have said the right things,
but our actions have not always followed.**

**We have held on to anger,
been slow to forgive,
and sometimes turned away when others needed us.**

Forgive us, Lord.

**Change our hearts, renew our spirits,
and help us follow you with our whole lives.**

**Thank you for meeting us with mercy
and never giving up on us.**

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.**

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: Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!**

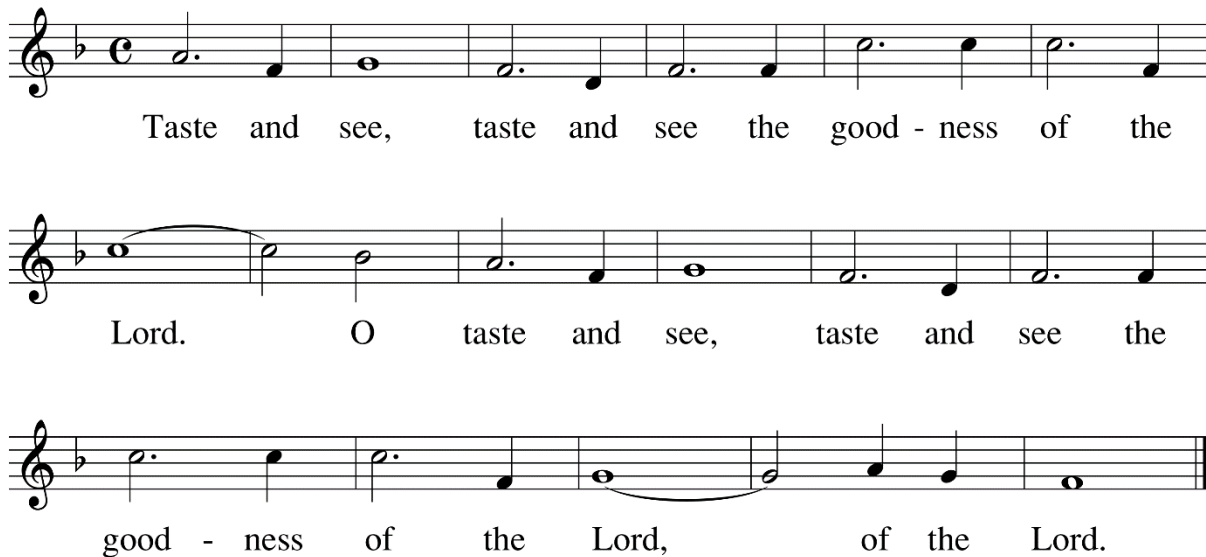
As you are served communion:

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

Taste and See

The Assembly sings the refrain and the praise team will sing the verses.

Refrain:



The musical notation for the Refrain is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and common time. The melody is as follows: Staff 1: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (half), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). Staff 2: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (half), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half). Staff 3: D3 (half), C3 (half), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (half), F#2 (quarter), E2 (half). The lyrics are: Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Verse 1: I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord for God has been so good to me.

Refrain...

Verse 2: Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord who answered me;
from all my troubles I was set free.

Refrain...

Verse 3: Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good; in God we need put all our trust.

Refrain...

*Words & Music: Psalm 34; James E. Moore, Jr., b.1951,
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,
you have fed us with the body and blood of Christ.
Strengthen us to live our faith through loving words and actions.
Send us forth in your grace to serve you and our neighbors;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Go now in the love of God.
May Christ guide your steps, the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts,
and God's peace go with you.
Share God's love, serve your neighbors,
and be a blessing to all you meet.
In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: Amen.

SONG *

We Will Walk with God



We will walk with God, my broth-ers, we will walk with God,
We will walk with God, my sis - ters, we will walk with God,



we will go re - joic - ing till the king-dom has come,



we will go re - joic - ing till the king-dom has come.

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
 Serve the Lord and love your neighbor.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Dr. Ian McMichael, University Pastor & Executive Director of Spiritual & Religious Life
- Capital University.
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Dr. Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Praise Team

FLOWER DEDICATION:

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of loved ones by Jane McFadden.

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