

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Divine Service Setting Three
September 20, 2026



The Last Will Be First

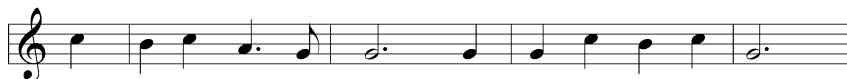
Confession and Absolution

807 When Morning Gilds the Skies

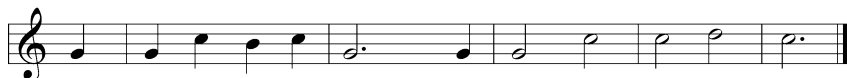
LSB 807



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, This is my song of songs:
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon In all high heav'n is known
4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find:
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's ho - ly house of prayer
Than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let all the earth a - round
Sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



This rings my cur - few call: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
Hath none that can com - pare With "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
The e - ter - nal psalm is heard: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
Ring joy - ous with the sound: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"
Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Reading

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17

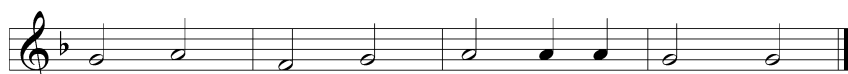
- P** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
C **and call on the name of the LORD.**
P What shall I render to the LORD
C **for all his benefits to me?**
P I will lift up the cup of salvation
C **and call on the name of the LORD.**
P Precious in the sight of the LORD
C **is the death of his saints.**
P O LORD, I am your servant;
C **I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.**
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
P I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
C **and call on the name of the LORD.**

Kyrie

LSB 186



Q Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



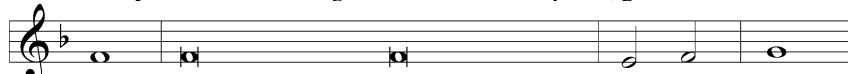
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

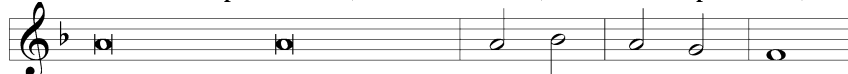
LSB 187



P Glory be to God on high: **Q** and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



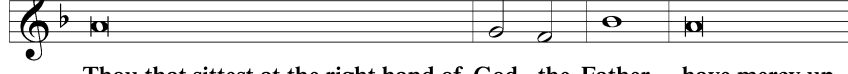
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



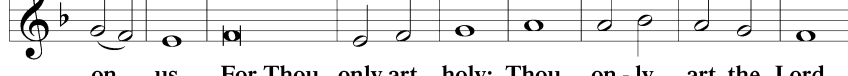
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



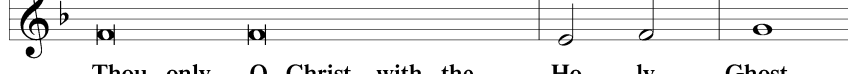
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



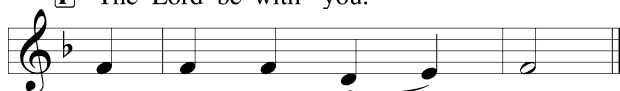
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



Salutation and Collect of the Day



- P** Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

- ⁶"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, '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.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

G I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,

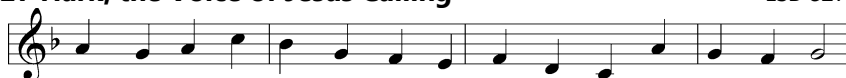
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from
 heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
 and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
 glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

LSB 827



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?
 2 Some take up His task in morn - ing, To their Lord re - spond - ing soon;
 3 For as rain and snow from heav - en Wa - ter seeds in dust - y soil,
 4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com - ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"
 Some are called in heat of mid - day, Oth - ers late in af - ter - noon;
 Caus - ing them to bud and flow - er, Giv - ing bread to those who toil;
 When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de - scend.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.
E - ven as the sun is set - ting, Some are sent in - to the fields,
So the Lord sends forth His prom - ise, Words of life and joy and peace—
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me"?
There to gath - er in the boun - ty That God's Word so rich - ly yields.
Nev - er void to Him re - turn - ing, Bear - ing fruit with great in - crease.
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

Sermon: The Last Will Be First

Offertory

LSB 192



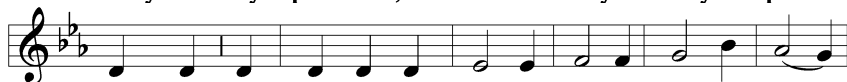
☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

In this congregation, we recognize the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Because those who receive unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith of this altar, those who hold a confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are asked to speak with the pastor before communing.

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

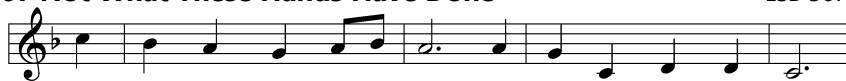
Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

567 Not What These Hands Have Done

LSB 567



1 Not what these hands have done Can save this guilt - y soul;
 2 Not what I feel or do Can give me peace with God;
 3 Thy work a - lone, O Christ, Can ease this weight of sin;
 4 Thy love to me, O God, Not mine, O Lord, to Thee,



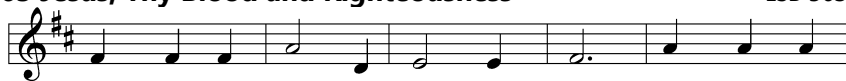
Not what this toil - ing flesh has borne Can make my spir - it whole.
 Not all my prayers and sighs and tears Can bear my aw - ful load.
 Thy blood a - lone, O Lamb of God, Can give me peace with - in.
 Can rid me of this dark un - rest And set my spir - it free.

5 Thy grace alone, O God,
 To me can pardon speak;
 Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God,
 Can this sore bondage break.

6 I bless the Christ of God,
 I rest on love divine,
 And with unfalt'ring lip and heart
 I call this Savior mine.

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
 3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
 4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
 deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
 mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives' a
 on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



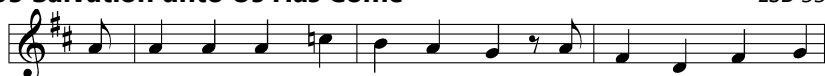
these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
 lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
 To claim my mansion in the skies,
 This then shall be my only plea:
 Jesus hath lived and died for me.

- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

LSB 555



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could
3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, Sin held its sway un -



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For
giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
ceas - ing; The task was use - less and in vain, Our



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those
by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
guilt was e'er in - creas - ing. None can re - move sin's



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
pure de - sires The spir - it of the
mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
poi - soned dart Or pu - ri - fy our



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
guile - ful heart— So deep is our cor - rup - tion.

- 5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature
sharing. He has for us the Law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.
- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.

- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!" No falsehood have You
spoken. Baptized into Your precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.
- 8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.
- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.
- △ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace; All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-

cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

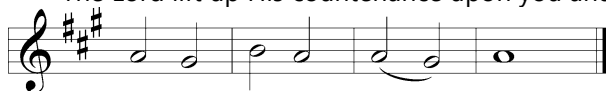
Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

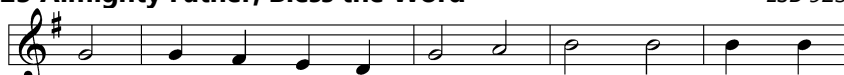


C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sit

923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word

LSB 923



1 Al - mighty - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your

2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward

△ 3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious

now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who

crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!

wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.

heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV®

Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©

2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.