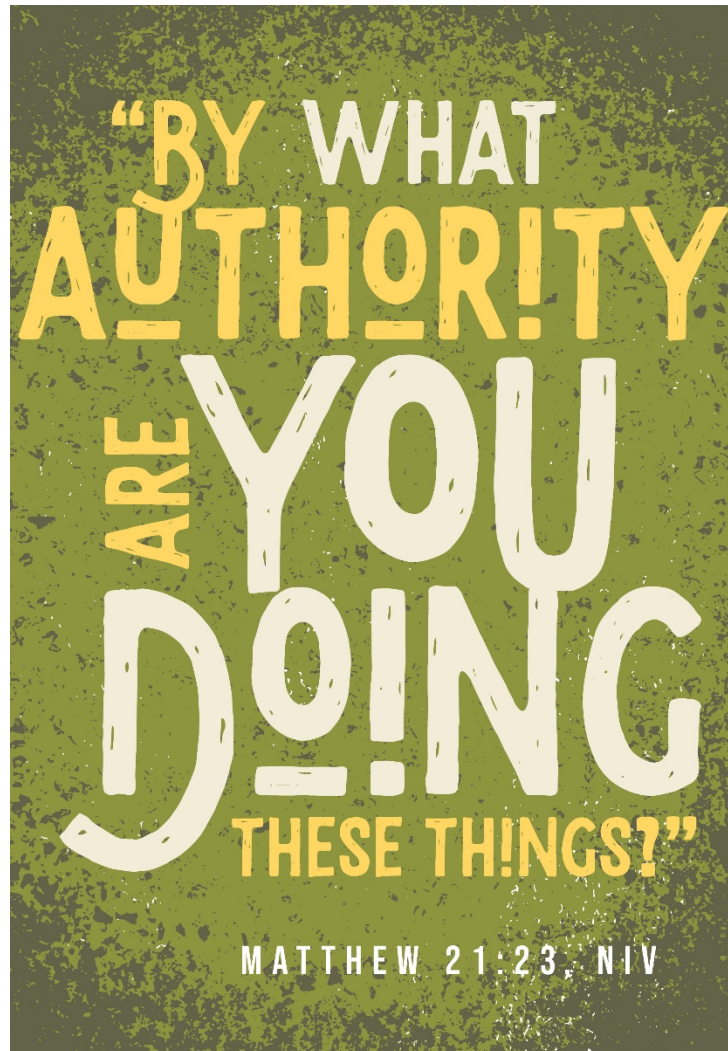


**September 27, 2020**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
10891 102 Avenue, Seminole, FL 33778  
727.391.4644

[www.mygoodshepherd.net](http://www.mygoodshepherd.net)

## Introduction

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 the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

## WELCOME

### Confession and Forgiveness

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

**You are good, You are good  
When there's nothing good in me  
You are love, You are love  
On display for all to see  
You are light, You are light  
When the darkness closes in  
You are hope, You are hope  
You have covered all my sin  
You are peace, You are peace  
When my fear is crippling  
You are true, You are true  
Even in my wandering  
You are joy, You are joy  
You're the reason that I sing  
You are life, You are life,  
In You death has lost it's sting**

**Oh, I'm running to your arms,  
I'm running to arms  
The riches of your love  
Will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your  
embrace  
Light of the world forever reign**

**You are more, You are more  
Than my words will ever say  
You are Lord, You are Lord  
All creation will proclaim  
You are here, You are here  
In your presence I'm made whole  
You are God, You are God  
Of all else I'm letting go**

**Oh, I'm running to your arms,  
I'm running to arms  
The riches of your love**

## **Forever Reigns**

**Will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your  
embrace  
Light of the world forever reign**

**Oh, I'm running to your arms,  
I'm running to arms  
The riches of your love  
Will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your  
embrace  
Light of the world forever reign**

**My heart will sing no other name  
Jesus, Jesus!  
My heart will sing no other name  
Jesus, Jesus!  
My heart will sing no other name  
Jesus, Jesus!  
My heart will sing no other name  
Jesus, Jesus!**

**Oh, I'm running to your arms,  
I'm running to arms  
The riches of your love  
Will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your  
embrace  
Light of the world forever reign**

**Oh, I'm running to your arms,  
I'm running to arms  
The riches of your love  
Will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your  
embrace  
Light of the world forever reign**

## **GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32**

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

<sup>25</sup>Yet 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? <sup>26</sup>When 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.

<sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

<sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet 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?

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

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

## **PSALM 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

<sup>7</sup>Remember 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.

<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love,  
any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy  
complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full  
accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but  
in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look  
not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same  
mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form  
of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human  
likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is  
above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should  
bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue  
should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, 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; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you,  
enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:23-32**

The holy gospel according Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>23</sup>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?" <sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>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.

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

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

### **O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee**

**O Master, let me walk with Thee  
In lowly paths of service free  
Tell me Thy secret, help me bear  
The strain of toil, the fret of care**

**Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee  
In closer, dearer company  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong  
In truth that triumphs over wrong**

**O Master let me walk with Thee  
In closer, dearer company  
O Master let me walk with Thee  
Let me walk with Thee**

**In hope that sends a shining ray  
Far down the future's broadening way  
In peace that only Thou canst give  
With Thee, O Master, let me live**

**O Master let me walk with Thee  
O Master let me walk with Thee**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each prayer petition ends*

*...we pray to you...God:*

**hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

### **OFFERING**

*The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took a towel and wrapped it around his waist, and washed the disciples' feet, saying: if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

And after supper, when he had gone out, Jesus said to the disciples: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

For where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, the body of Christ is present, with us always, to the end of the age.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

**You are God, and we lift you up  
We keep singing, We keep  
praising  
We won't stop giving all we got  
Cause You're worthy of all Your  
Glory**

**Oh, there is no other  
You are forever, Lord over all  
There's nobody like you,  
no one beside you**

**To you.... let endless praise  
resound  
Every night and day, and with no  
delay  
Let endless praise resound**

*Instrumental Break*

**Boundless love, light before the  
sun  
Your Glory eternal Never stops  
giving all You got  
Creation keeps singing**

**Oh, there is no other  
You are forever, Lord over all  
There's nobody like you, no one  
beside you**

**To you.... let endless praise  
resound**

## **Endless Praise**

**Every night and day, and with no  
delay  
Let endless praise resound  
To you.... let endless praise  
resound  
Every night and day, and with no  
delay  
Let endless praise resound**

*Instrumental Break*

**We lift You up  
We're giving You our love  
For everything You've done  
We give You all the praise**

**We lift You up  
We're giving You our love  
For everything You've done  
We give You all the praise**

*Instrumental Break*

**To you..... let endless praise  
resound  
Every night and day, and with no  
delay  
Let endless praise resound  
To you..... let endless praise  
resound  
Every night and day, and with no  
delay  
Let endless praise resound**

*Instrumental Ending*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003243.

*“Forever Reigns”*

*Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 11246759*

*“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee ”*

All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) Used by permission CCLI License 11246759

*“Endless Praise”*

For sole use with used by permission. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 11246759

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.