

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Chester, Vermont
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026



Prelude Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

After the prelude, the bell is rung ten times to summon the people of Chester to join us for the Eucharist on this Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost. Then we observe a moment of silence before the opening hymn.

Entrance Hymn 690

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,



bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to



more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and people

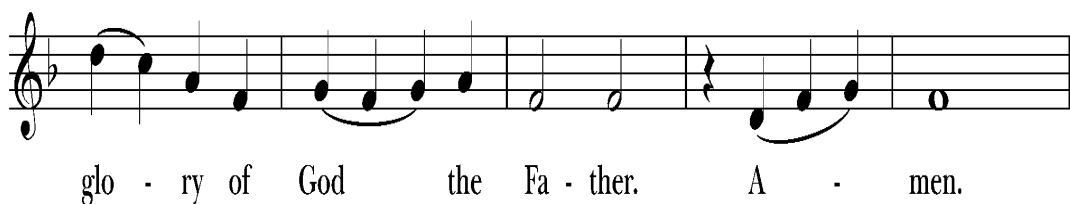
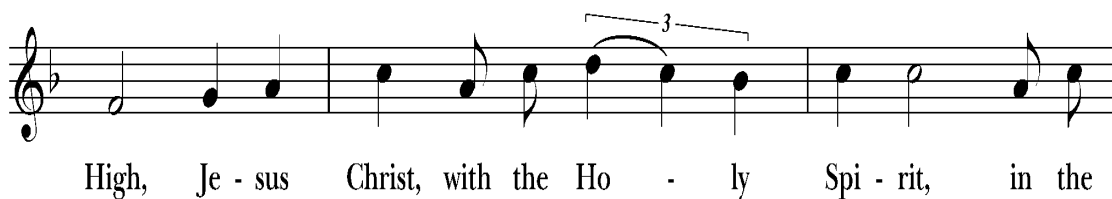
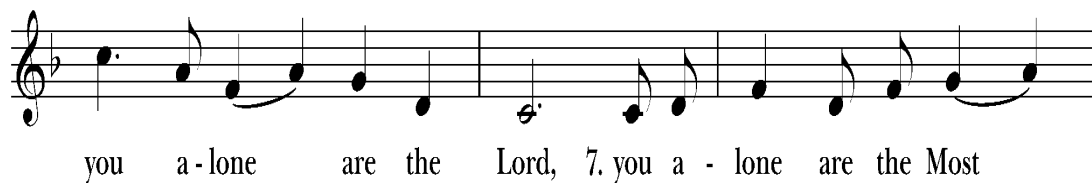
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise S-280 The Hymnal 1982 Service Music



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and

peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly
King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus
Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy
on us; 5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,



Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Collect for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Presider and people

O God, from your providing hand even the dissatisfied and grumbling receive what they need for their lives. Teach us your ways of justice and lead us to practice your generosity so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel made known through your Son Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The First Reading – Exodus 16:2-15

Reader A reading from Exodus.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as

much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’”

¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

¹Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

²Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

³Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

⁵Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

⁶O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

³⁷He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
³⁸Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
³⁹He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
⁴⁰They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
⁴¹He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
⁴²For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
⁴³So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
⁴⁴He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
⁴⁵That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

Second Reading – Philippians 1:21-30

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

1. ²¹To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 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 for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, 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, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence

of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 694 *The Hymnal 1982*

God be in my head, and in my un - der - stand - ing;

God be in mine eyes, and in my look - ing;

God be in my mouth, and in my speak - ing;

God be in my heart, and in my think - ing;

God be at mine end, and at my de - part - ing.

The Holy Gospel – Matthew 20:1-16

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, O Christ.

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said,] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And 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?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When 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.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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 the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Rev. Dr. Bruce MacDuffie

Nicene Creed Presider and people

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all

things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Deacon or presider

Let us offer prayers for all who labor in the vineyard of the Lord and for all in every danger and need.

Intercessor

For this holy gathering, and for the people of God in every place.

Lord, have mercy.

For the Universal Church, its members and our mission in the world; for this congregation, for Bruce MacDuffie, our parish clergy our parish clergy, for our bishop. Shannon, and for *Sean*, our Presiding Bishop.

Lord, have mercy.

For all peoples and their leaders, for *Donald*, our President, *Scott*. our Governor, and *elected or appointed to office in our communities*. for all candidates for office, and for justice, mercy, and peace in the world.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who work for daily wages, and for their employers and managers. For all those seeking a just wage and full employment.

Lord, have mercy.

For abundant fruits of the earth, and for safety from violent storms.

Lord, have mercy.

For the sick and the suffering, travelers and the victims of war, prisoners and refugees, and the dying and dead. (here add the name of those remembered in our church community.

Lord, have mercy.

For our towns and communities and those who live in them, and for our families, companions, and all those we love.

Lord, have mercy.

For any additional prayers and thanksgivings you'd like to name now, in silence or aloud.

Silence

Presider

Gracious and merciful God, who honors the last as well as the first, hear the prayers we offer this day and welcome your people into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presider Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister and People God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

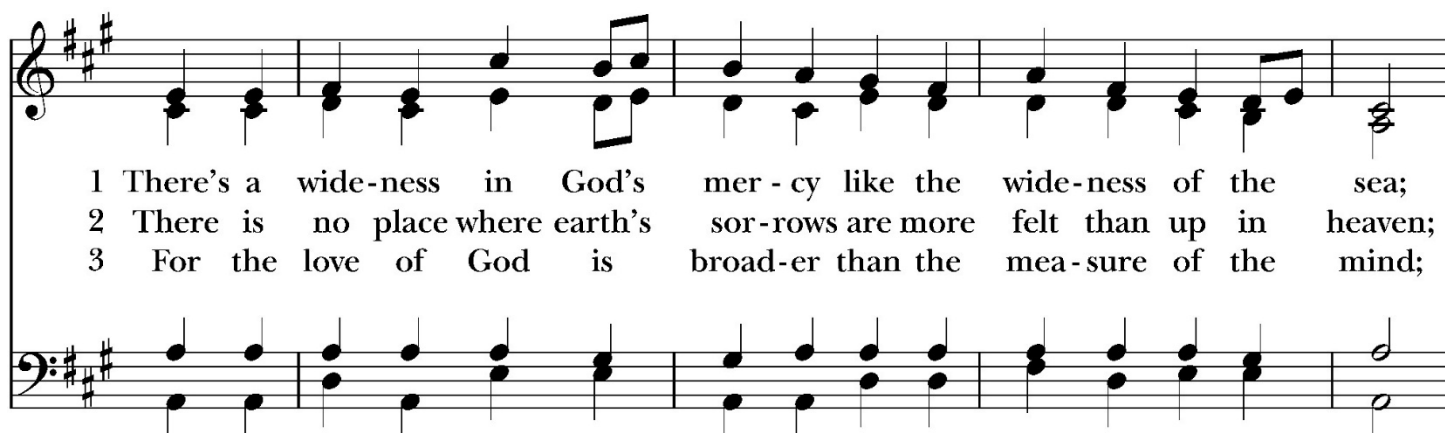
The Peace *Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

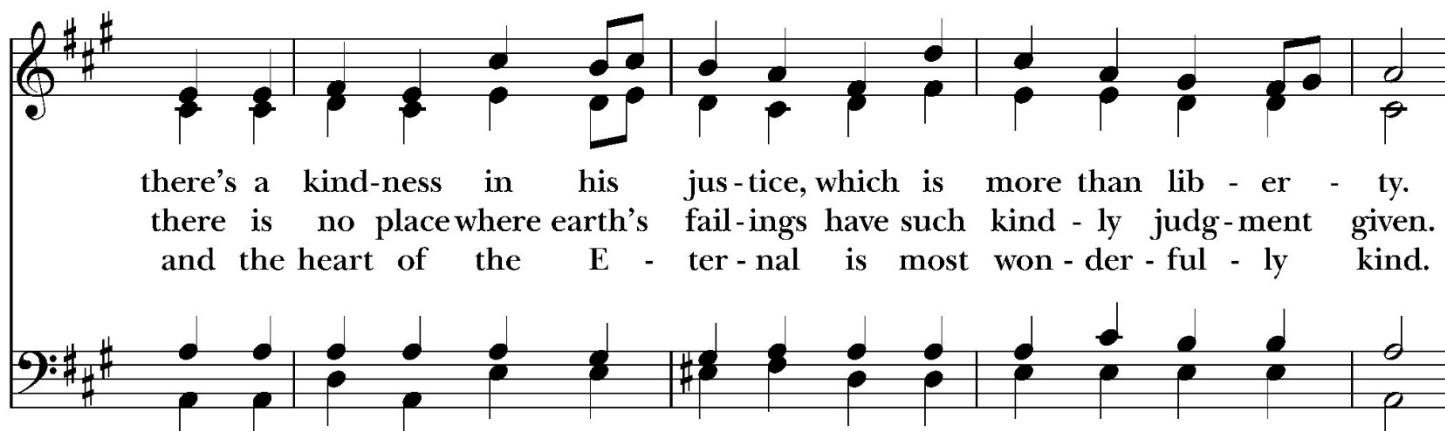
Offertory Sentence

""Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name. Make his deeds known forever." (Psalm 145)

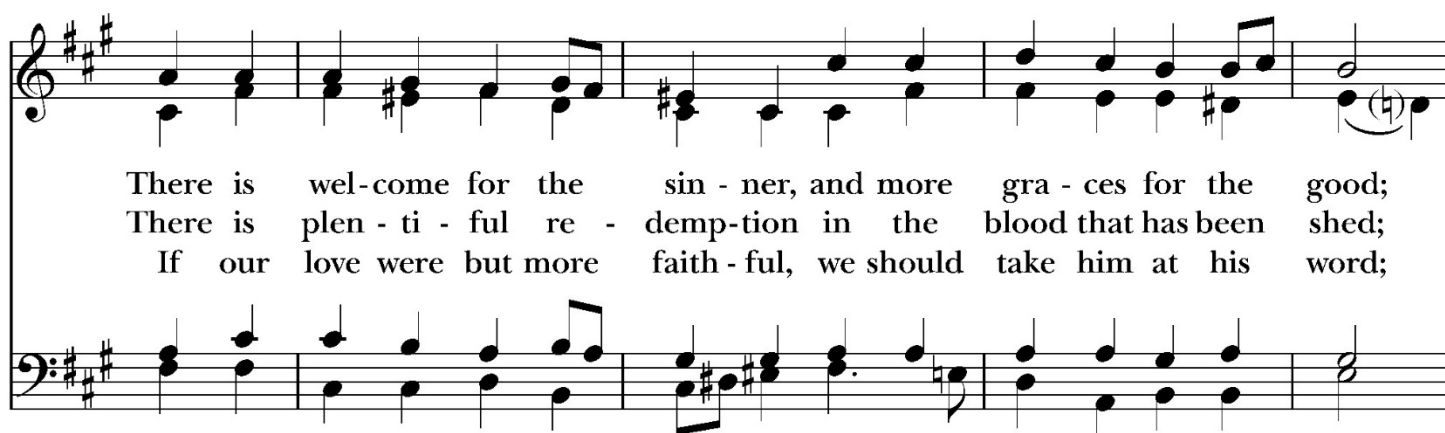
Offertory Hymn 470 *The Hymnal 1982*



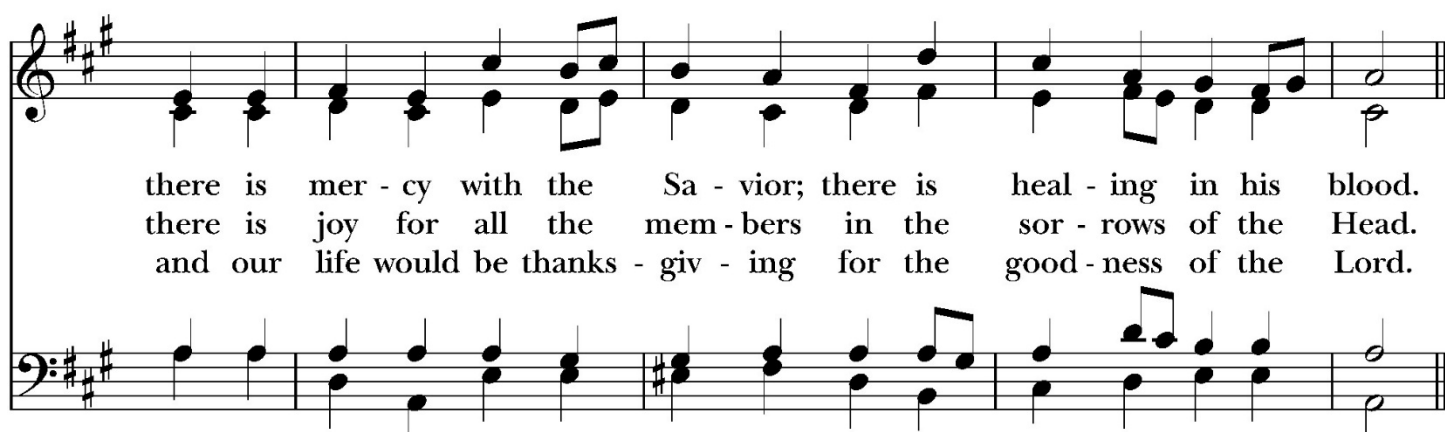
1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;



there's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.



There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;



there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Offertory Presentation Hymn 380 Verse 3 "Doxology"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer *The- people remain standing.*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places,
our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out
from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave
breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; through Jesus Christ our
Lord; for you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image,
and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. And so as the stars sing
your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with
joy:

Presider and people S125 *The Hymnal 1982*



The people stand, sit, or kneel as is comfortable.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent;
you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them
from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim
the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.
Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
you have freed us from sin,
brought us into your life,
reconciled us to you,
and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and
said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his
friends and said:

"Drink this, all of you:
this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood,
poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us:

the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension,
longing for Christ's coming in glory,
and presenting to you these gifts
your earth has formed and human hands have made,
we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and people

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts of bread and wine
that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power,
may be a people of hope, justice and love.
Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of
time gather us with blessed Luke, the patron of this congregation, and all
your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator
in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, As our Savior Christ Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Presider and people

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, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

S 164 The Hymnal 1982

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Presider The Holy Gifts of God for the Holy People of God.

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not

been for a long time or ever before, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. It is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here. All are welcome to receive communion.

Communion Hymn 343 *The Hymnal 1982*

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

Post Communion Prayer *Presider and people*

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people,

forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Closing Hymn 801 *Wonder, Love, and Praise*

Unison *Harmony*

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; by wise coun - sels
2. God be with you till we meet a - gain; 'neath bright wings pro -
3. God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's pe - rils
4. God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's ban - ner

guide, up - hold you, with the sheep se - cure - ly fold you:
tect - ing hide you, dail - y man - na still pro - vide you:
thick con - found you, put strong arms un - fail - ing round you:
float - ing o'er you, smite death's threat - 'ning wave be - fore you:

Unison

God be with you till we meet a - gain.
God be with you till we meet a - gain.
God be with you till we meet a - gain.
God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Closing Blessing

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Postlude Selected and played by Karlaine Livingston

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PLEASE!! Take this service leaflet with you. Read the scriptures again. Learn a hymn or two. Use the prayers of the people all this coming week. Blessings! To prepare for the next Sunday, the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, slowly read next Sunday's scriptures. Jot down questions and thoughts you may have. Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 16 Wednesday Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 P.M.

Commemorating Ninian pizza after service

September 20 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist 10-11:15 AM.

September 23 Midweek Eucharist 5:30-6:00 P.M.

Commemorating Thecla of Iconium

September 27 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 AM Blessing of household animals, especially dogs. Please keep all dogs leashed, and other animals such as cats in a portable crate or cage. The service is very brief. Your animal is welcome to attend the Sunday Eucharist or communion which begins at 10AM.

Holy Eucharist

10-11:15 AM

OTHER EVENTS

September 26 Burial Eucharist and Celebration of Life for Eileen Widger

September 27 Reading Group after Coffee Hour

