



17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

**HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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September 20, 2026

10:00AM

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*** THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference
keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show
genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our
world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your
holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✚ Jesus
Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and
the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

**Please stand, as you are able*

* **THE GATHERING SONG:** #641

All Are Welcome

* **THE GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

* **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is

better for me to die than to live.” ⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
² **Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**
³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**
⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**
⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in

faith,²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.²⁷ Only, 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 gospel²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well,³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

* **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Sung page 151a)

C: Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord!

***GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

[Jesus said to the disciples:]¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard.³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace,⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.⁶ And 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?'⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'⁸ When 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.'⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of

them received a denarius.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, '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.'¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?'¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The Gospel of the Lord!
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOOD NEWS 101 Children's talk

THE SERMON

THE HYMN OF THE DAY:

#493

Taste and See

* **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 OF THE CHURCH**

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Here we O God,
Your mercy is great.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**THE OFFERING
SPECIAL MUSIC**

*** THE OFFERTORY: Give Thanks**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong" let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong" let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give Thanks!

*** THE OFFERING PRAYER**

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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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 power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

*** THE BLESSING**

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*** THE SENDING SONG:**

765

Lord of All Hopefulness

*** THE DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

*Great
are the
works
of the
Lord.*

THE POSTLUDE

Serving Today: September 20, 2026

Acolyte: Johnson Family

Lector: Bonnie Mazza

Ushers: Steve Anderson & Amber Johnson

Musician: Danny Allen

Sound System: Bonnie Mazza

Serving Next Week: September 27, 2026

Acolyte: Johnson Family

Lector: Judy Bariexca

Ushers: Ferol Howell

Musicians: Voices That Reign

Sound System: Laura Poethke