17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026 + 9:30am



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue + Racine, Wisconsin 53403
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https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine

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. We remember that 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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our hope, our heart, our home. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
A brief silence.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,
we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.
We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.
Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will. Amen.

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:
God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of ☩ Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering Song ***"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"*** *ELW #461*



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825
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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. 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading — Exodus 16:2-15

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the LORD and in the LORD's servant Moses.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.
3 The 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 pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness
to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

4 Then 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. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be
twice as much as they gather on other days." 6 So 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, 7 and in the
morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because the Lord has heard your complaining. For
what are we, that you complain against us?" 8 And 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 the Lord—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but
against the Lord."

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the Lord,
for the Lord has heard your complaining.' " 10 And 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.
11 The Lord spoke to Moses, 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.' "

13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of
dew around the camp. 14 When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was
a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 When 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."

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

Make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples. Hallelujah! (Ps. 105:1, 45)

1 Give thanks to the LORD and call up- | on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD a- | mong the peoples.
2 **Sing to the | LORD, sing praises, and speak of all God's | marvelous works.**
3 Glory in God's | holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice.
4 **Search for the strength | of the LORD; continually | seek God's face.**
5 Remember the marvels | God has done, the wonders and the judgments | of God's mouth,

6 **O offspring of Abra- | ham, God's servant, O children of Jacob, God's | chosen ones.**
37 You led out your people with sil- | ver and gold;
in all their tribes there was not | one that stumbled.
38 **Egypt was glad to | see them go, because they were a- | fraid of them.**
39 You spread out a cloud | for a covering and a fire to give | light by night.
40 **They asked, and | you brought quail, and satisfied them with | bread from heaven.**
41 You opened the rock, and | water flowed, so the river ran in | the dry places.
42 **For you remembered your | holy word and Abra- | ham your servant.**
43 So you led forth your peo- | ple with gladness, your chosen with | shouts of joy.
44 **You gave your people the lands | of the nations,**
and they took the fruit of | others' toil,
45 that they might | keep your statutes and observe your teachings. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading — Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor
for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 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, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in
Christ Jesus because of me.

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 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.
29For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering
for Christ as well, 30since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that
I still have.

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation





Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel **Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

┌Jesus said to the disciples:┐ 1"The dominion 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 a denarius for
the day, 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. 5"When 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.' 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.' 9When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received
a denarius. 10Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them
also received a denarius. 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 the landowner 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 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

Hymn of the Day ***"God's Work, Our Hands"*** *ACS #1000*



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

Prayers of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need. At the end of each petition the Assembly responds: **your mercy is great.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Nancy Nelson, William Schultz Jr., John Falk, Carmen Falk, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper, Linda Losito, Judi and Larry Krebs, and Eloise and Larry Laugen.

Sharing of the Peace

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



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well! ***Thank you for your generosity!***

Offering Song



Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. O God,

maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

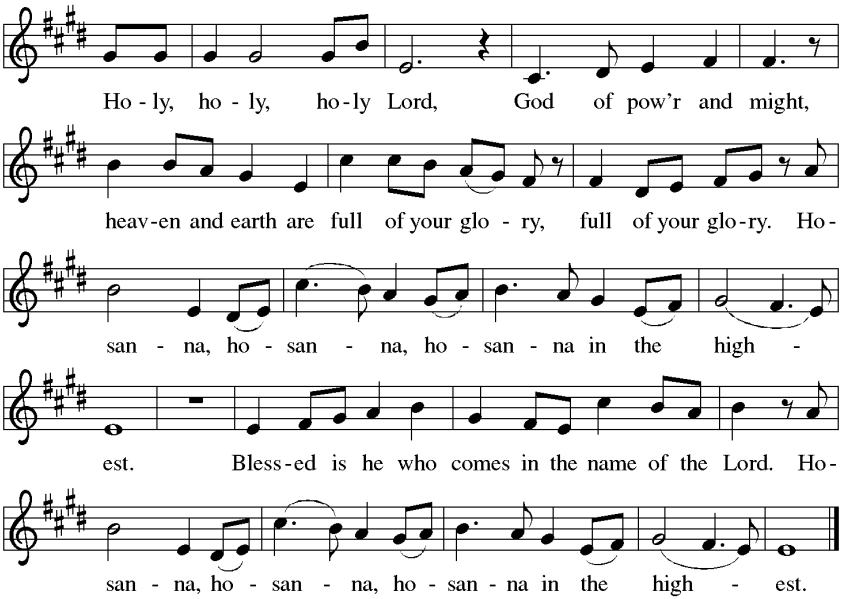
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed, right our duty and our joy….

…. we praise your name and join their unending hymn:.



The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.

The Assembly responds when prompted:

The earth is full of your glory

The earth is full of your glory. …

Amen and amen.

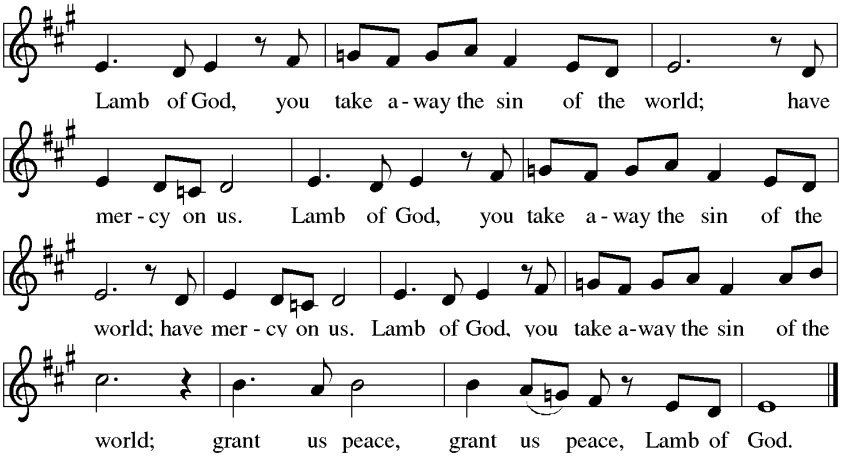
Amen and Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

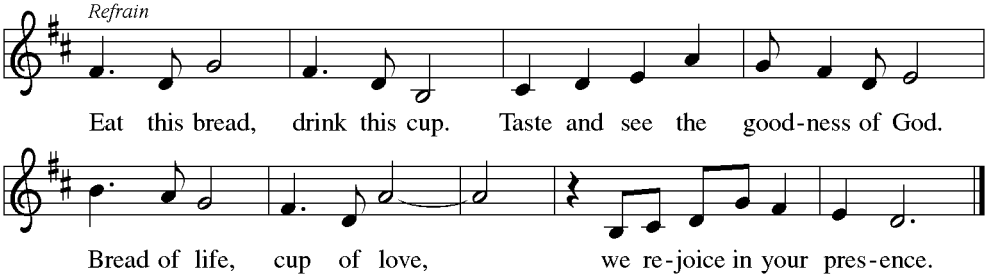
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

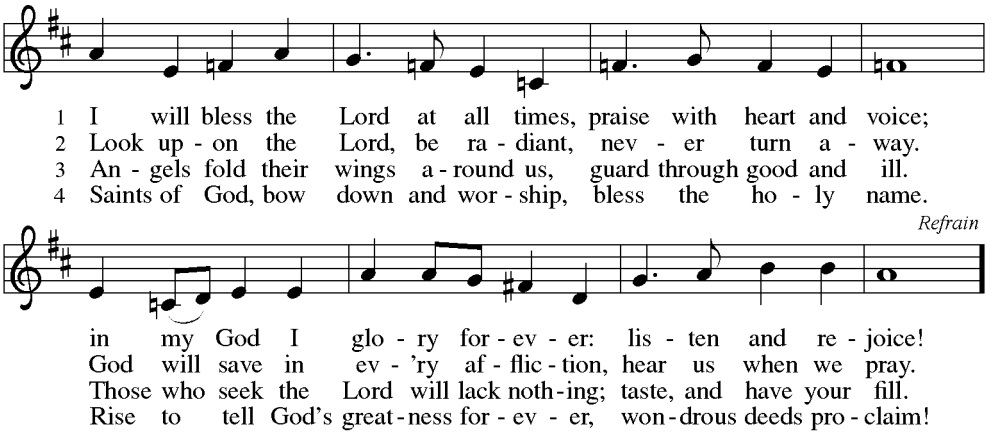
Invitation to Communion
The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

Distribution of Communion
If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words



Communion Song ***"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"*** *ELW #492*





Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34
Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young
Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. God of our salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

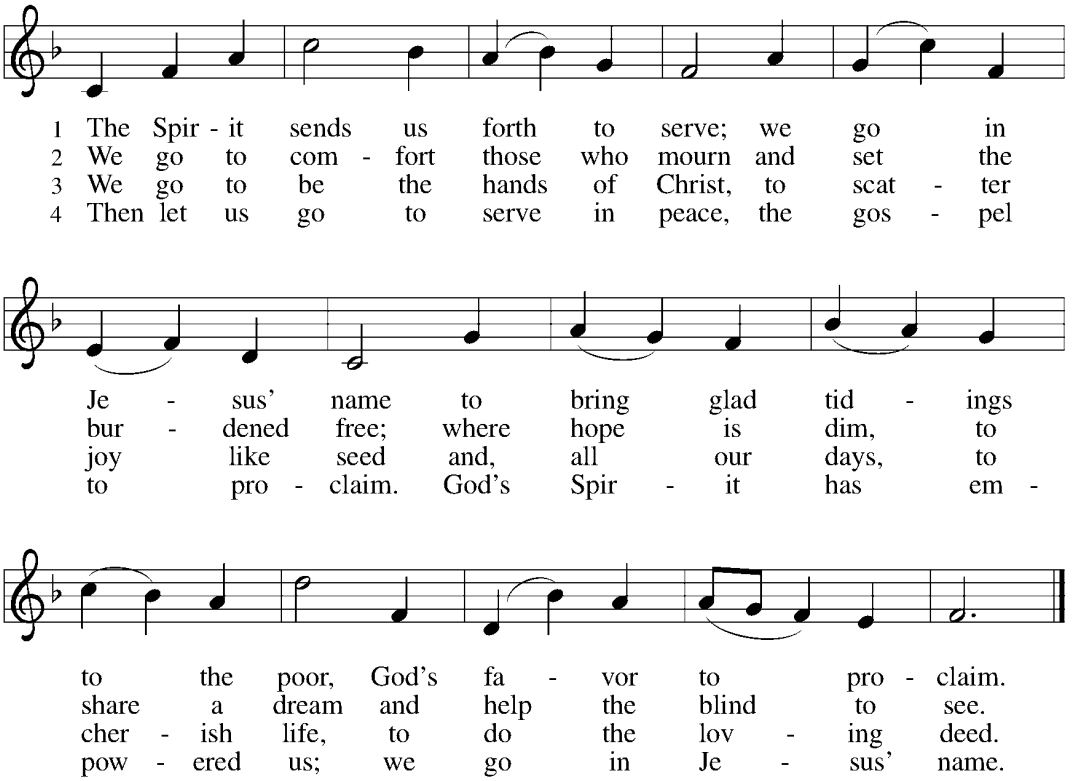
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

God our Mother root you deep in grace. God our Neighbor stand with you in strength. God our Nourishment sustain you in hope and ☩ bless you unto evergreen life. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ***"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"*** *ELW #551*



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
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Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

Thanks be to God.

We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.

Serving Today

Altar Flowers:	Wendy Lail
	In Honor of Sarah and Brian's Anniversary
Assisting Minister:	Sean Fair
Reader:	Sheila Fair
Usher:	Jim Kasprovich
Altar Guild:	Linda Bagley & Marilyn Rentz
Musician:	Paul Berge
Pastor:	The Rev. Matt James

This Week @ Redeemer

Sunday:	Worship – 9:30am
Monday:	GriefShare – 10—11:30am
Wednesday:	Book Club – 1pm @ Inclusive Bean & 6pm @ Tulip Tavern
Saturday:	Outreach for Hope Run Ride Walk

Celebrations this Week

Birthdays:	Joceyln Fuller (9/23), Judy Exner (9/24), Lois Stattenfield 9:26), Daniel Rennock (9/26)
Wedding Anniversary:	Sarah & Brian Cunningham (9/22)

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Upcoming Commemorations

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF)
Sunday, September 20, 2026
A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Monday, September 21, 2026
Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

Texts for Next Sunday, September 27th 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32



GriefShare is Back this Fall!
GriefShare meets Mondays from 10 to 11:30am beginning this Monday, September 14th and run through December 7th. All are invited to attend!