

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



Sacrament of Holy Communion

September 20, 2026

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

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.

St. James Lutheran Church

109 York Street, Gettysburg, PA

www.StJamesGettysburg.org

Welcome to St. James.

Here are some tips for worshipping with us.

Large print bulletins and hearing-assist devices can be found on the welcome table in the main hall. Please stand as you are able for parts of the service noted with an asterisk (*). Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

In this bulletin, ELW# refers to hymns in the back half of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (cranberry color). ACS# refers to hymns in the back half of *All Creation Sings* (purple color). Both books are found in the chair rack in front of you. Other symbols used throughout this bulletin:

P Presider **C** Congregation **A** Assisting Minister **L** Lay Reader

The 8:15 worship service will be livestreamed to our YouTube Channel and made available for public viewing. Please note that you may be recorded during worship. You can visit our YouTube Channel at [StJamesGettysburg.org/YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStJamesGettysburg). If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with a member of the staff.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN: *Lord of Light*

ELW 688

*PASTORAL 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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L *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.

C Amen.

Word

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

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:45): *The Peace of Christ*

James Biery

May peace from Christ come dwell in you, may love from God envelop you and bind you close in harmony, true meekness and humility. For you are called God's chosen ones, God's holy and beloved ones. Be clothed anew in loveliness, compassion, patience, gentleness. The peace of Christ which dwells in you will perfectly be seen through you. So let your hearts and voices ring—let grateful songs to God take wing. (Marilyn Biery)

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?"

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145

tune, Hyfrydol

1 I will ever sing your praises,
For all time, your name I'll bless;
Without peer is your great glory,
Limitless your righteousness.
Each new generation numbers
All your blessings as their own;
To the earth's most far-flung regions
Is your majesty made known.

2 You are gracious, full of mercy,
Slow to anger, quick to love;
Saints below may glimpse your kingdom
In the lofty skies above.
In this life, the best we savor
Is but common fare to me;
All the riches earth can harvest
Cannot match your majesty.

3 For the LORD is ever faithful
To supply our deepest need;
Justice grows from every judgment,
Wholesome bread from every seed.
God is ne'er too far to hear us,
Never deaf to our demands;
Those who love and trust the promise
Rest secure within God's hand.

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 gospel ²⁸ 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.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.**

SERMON, FOLLOWED BY SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

*APOSTLES' CREED

C 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 INTERCESSION

Petitions conclude: "Hear us, O God." Our response: **"Your mercy is great."**

*SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

(8:15) *Adagio from Fantaisie in C*

César Franck

(10:45) *O God of Love*

From "*Orfeo*" by C.W. Gluck, arr. Nancy Grundahl

O God of love, O God of mercy, in thee alone can peace be found. Thou wilt sustain us and joy attain for us, in time of sadness with love us surround. Hear our prayer of devotion. Give thy loving and gracious care, we humbly pray. God we long for thy salvation and the goodness of thy way.

*OFFERTORY



In_ grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we_ bring our best to - day

to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.

O_ God, who gave your - self to us in_ Je - sus Christ your Son,

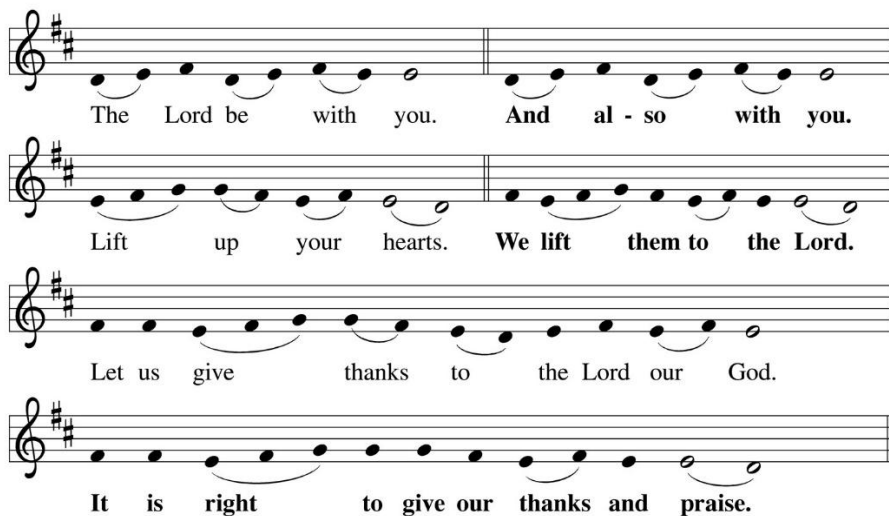
teach us to give our selves each day un - til life's work is done.

*OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C 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.

*DIALOGUE



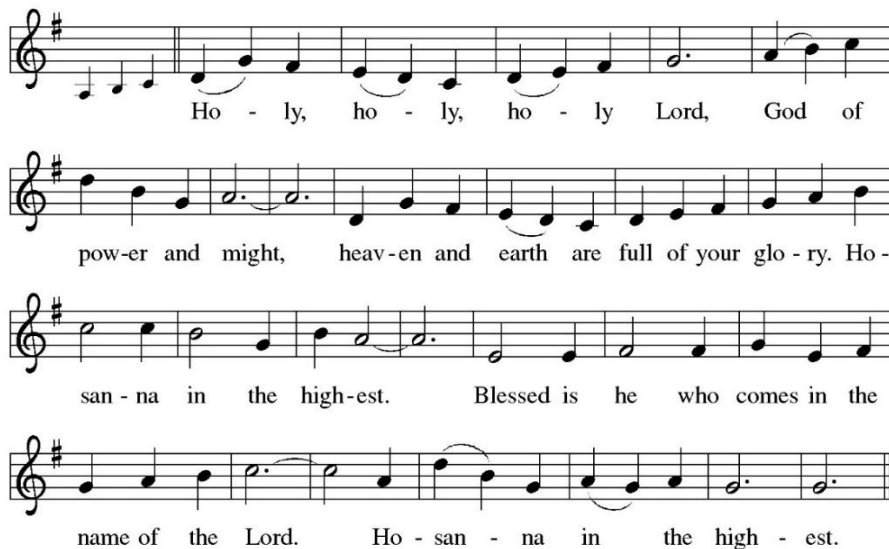
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

*PREFACE AND CANTICLE



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

*INVITATION

P Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C Thanks be to God.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

All are welcome at Christ's table. Come one, come all, the feast is spread! An usher will give you a cup and guide you toward the platform. During the continuous flow, please fill in spaces starting at the front of the platform completing the circle. We offer a chalice with grape juice first, followed by a chalice of wine. Please indicate your preference by extending your glass at the appropriate time. Rice crackers are available for those with gluten allergies. If you are unable to come forward, please alert an usher and you will receive the sacrament while seated.

*COMMUNION HYMN: *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

ELW 659

*TABLE BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

Sending

God blesses us in mission to the world

*BLESSING

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

C Amen.

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

C Amen.

P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

*SENDING HYMN: *Lord of All Hopefulness*

ELW 765

*DISMISSAL

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Portions of the liturgy are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Anthem © 2006 Birnamwood Publications. Psalm from The Psalter for Christian Worship © 2010 Michael Morgan. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press. “O God of Love” © 2001 Fostco Music Press. Offertory text © 1969, ren. 1981 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company. Print and streaming permissions granted by Augsburg Fortress License #SAS024997, CCLI License #2678434, and OneLicense.net #A-707473.



Lift Up in Prayer

Helen Bardell	Chelli McGlaughlin	Michelle	Daniel
Hope Bixler	Jen Mickelson	Steinberger	Dennis
Jim Caler	Glenn Munsee	John Stevenson	Gary
David Chapman	Jerry Neth	Mary Stevenson	Jake
Judy Coup	Mindy Plank	Charles	Jane
Marty Crabill	Dave Olsen	Strathmeyer	Josh & Lindsey
Rhea Crowell	Charlie	Wendy Sykes	Joyce
Kim Guise	Raffensperger	Dottie Thompson	Pete
Joanne Fisher	Anne Rost	Cheryl Weaver	Sally
Tim Fleming	Selene Scavitto	Deana Wolf	Sean
Erin Freeman	Lisa Sites	Anne Young	Sue
Caleb Freeman	Lou Shuba	Alli	Tiffany
Allison Hutchison	Cynthia Smith	Avery	Tom
Diann James	Deborah Smith	Beverly	Wayne
Janet Landon	Tom Smith	Bill	Wesley
Sam & Ed Main	John Steinberger	Carol	Will

We pray for the family and friends of Pat Tillman, who recently died. May they find comfort and peace in the promise of your eternal kingdom.



The Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

Rosebuds, given in loving memory of Jason Boyer by his family: Judy, Ken and Lee.

Announcements



Sign-up for our weekly eBlast to always know what's happening at St. James!
StJamesGettysburg.org/eBlastSignUp

Giving to St. James: Your financial gift allows St. James to do *great* things! Our mission is to *live & love like Jesus*. We serve and support our community – both locally & globally. Your gift and support make a difference in our community & world. Thank you!! Scan the QR code or visit StJamesGettysburg.org/give.



Common Ground Recovery Ministry – All are welcome to join us @ 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room on the 1st Monday of each month. **Our next service is Monday 10/5/26!**

Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Andrew –Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Area. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mary.

Register for 2026-2027 Youth Group – Middle & High School Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings, grades 4 & 5 meets on Monday afternoons, and grades K-3 meets on Wednesday afternoons. You can still sign up here: stjamesgettysburg.org/youth/youth-group

Gettysburg Area Dollars for Scholars (GADS) Access Scholarship Program –During the month of September, we will be collecting funds for The Access Scholarship, which financially supports low-income students who take “College in the Classroom” courses while in high school. These students can simultaneously earn high school and college credits. Please consider supporting The Access Scholarship, organized by GADS. Checks can be made payable to St. James Lutheran Church, memo line “GADS.” Place your gift in the offering plate.

Fall Book Club – Fall Book Club with Pastor Libby will begin on Monday, October 12 at 3PM in the church library. We will be reading and discussing *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

Fall Festival & Blessing of the Animals – Sunday, October 18 at the Vossler Farm. Worship at 10AM, Pot-luck lunch immediately following worship. No worship or Sunday School at church on this date. More details & RSVP to follow.

New Members Class – Interested in becoming a member of St. James? Come to a new member class on October 11th at noon in the gathering area. Lunch will be provided! New members will be

welcomed into the congregation during services on October 25th. If interested in membership at St. James, please reach out to Pastor Andrew or Pastor Libby.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Christian Nationalism Series – This 4 part series, focusing on Christian Nationalism, explores the ways we are invited to see Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life and writings as a profound witness to what it means to listen and respond to Christ in our own time in history. Sessions will take place on Wednesdays: 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, 11/4, from 6-7:30 PM, in the Gathering Area. This series will be led by Amy Duncan and Tom Vossler. Please feel free to contact Amy with any questions: duncan744@verizon.net

St. James Children's Library – You can now browse and borrow books for PreK – 9 year olds from the library. Check out the selection in the main hallway outside of the library on Sunday mornings.

Recycle Bicycle –Bring your outgrown or no longer used bikes to St. James on Sat. Oct. 3 from 9 am – noon. They will be donated to Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg, refurbished, & provided to those in need.

VisiTeam Info Session - We are organizing a new Visitation Team, VisiTeam, to provide visitation to homebound or hospitalized members of the St. James community. Find out more at the information session on Sunday, October 11 at 9:30 AM. See Paula Shoemaker or Debra Baker with additional questions.

Youth Night at Fields of Adventure – Sat. October 10, 4-9pm at Fields of Adventure in Aspers, PA. Let Mr. Adam know if you plan to come! Families pay \$5 / person and youth group will cover the remaining entrance fee.

Winter Clothing Drive for Int'l Students at Gettysburg College - The World Outreach Committee has established a partnership with the Int'l Student Services at Gettysburg College. The class of 2030 has 57 international students, and some of these students are economically challenged. They need winter clothing, and we are asking St. James to help gather items. We are collecting gloves, hats, scarves, vests, coats, sweatshirts, etc. for young male (M, L & XL) and female (S, M, L) students. We can accept new and nearly new clean items through October 11. There is a bin in the church office during the week for you to drop off the items. The bin will be outside the worship space for weekend worship.

Interested in hosting a student or two for a Thanksgiving meal? Contact Debra Baker, Daniel or Mary Folkemer

Serving in Worship

Preacher

Rev. Libby Baker – Mikesell

Presider

Rev. Andrew R. Geib

Minister of Music

Jonathan Noel

Choir Anthem (10:45)

St James Choir

Ryan Kozak, violin

Musical Offering (10:45)

Sue Hill & Kay MacDowell

Ryan Kozak, violin

Assisting Minister

Daniel Bringman

8:15 am Worship Service

Acolyte

Caden Miller

Bell Ringer

Peyton Smith

Prayer of the Day

Oliver Kehr

Lay Readers

Kacey Smith

Lucinda Bringman

Communion Assistants

Lucinda Bringman

Peggy Green

Judy Seilhamer

Shirley Sanders

Ushers

Kyle Smith, Morgan Smith

Alan Zepp, Heather Kehr

Greeters

Shirley Sanders, Peggy Green

Bread Baker

Peggy Green

Sacristy

Dee Wells

Judy Seilhamer

Coffee Host

Shirley Sanders

AV Operator

Denise Wood

10:45 am Worship Service

Acolyte

Sam Dunlop

Bell Ringer

Prayer of the Day

Lay Readers

James Dunlop, Carol Cook

Communion Assistants

Gloria Unger

Sherry Waybright

Sharon Kaya, Carol Cook

Ushers

Jan Keefer, Liam Clowney,

Mark Clowney, Gabbi Scavitto

Greeters

Becky Brown

Bread Baker

Julie Dunlop

Sacristy

Ann Ketterman

Alma Sujeski

Flower Deliverer

AV Operator

Katy Clowney