

*September 26, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.*  
*Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost*

"Which of the two  
did the will of  
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



*Trinity Lutheran Church & School*

*Our Mission:  
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*



### ***Trinity Lutheran Church***

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***Principal: Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold***

### **Worship Services**

***Saturday at 5:00pm (in the church)***

***Sunday at 9:30am (in the church)***

***On-line at "[www.trinitywestseneca.com](http://www.trinitywestseneca.com)"***

**Welcome Visitors and Guests!** Thank you for coming to worship God with us today! We believe that the Spirit of God had a hand in your coming. We trust that God's Word and this special time in worship will be a continuing blessing to you. Come again!

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 26, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.

## AS WE GATHER

It may seem as if Jesus is playing some sort of game with the chief priests and the elders of the people when He says in response to their questioning His authority, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.” But it is no game. The chief priests and elders of the people really do want to get rid of Jesus. And Jesus does not have to say anything about His authority, because His authority is clear to anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear. He healed the sick, restored sight to the blind, raised the dead, blessed the poor, and transformed sinners. He did all this not from rivalry or conceit, but in humility, and He counted others more significant than Himself. No one can be argued into recognizing Jesus’ authority. Only by experiencing what Jesus has done and continues to do in the world are people persuaded to see what the centurion at the cross saw: “Truly this man was the Son of God!” It is no game to recognize the authority of Jesus. Rather, it becomes a whole new way to understand the world and to live in it as His followers.

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

**CALL TO WORSHIP**     *“Jesus, Name Above All Names”*     *Naida Hearn*

## WELCOME

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 25:6–7; 147:6*

Pastor: The LORD lifts up the humble;

People: **He casts the wicked to the ground.**

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love

People: **for they have been from of old.**

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: **according to Your steadfast love, remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

## HYMN

### "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

(v 1, 2, 4, 7)

[Charles Wesley / Carl G. Glaser / Lowell Mason. Public Domain]

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin;  
He sets the pris'ner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood avails for me.

To God all glory, praise, and love  
Be now and ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above,  
The Church in earth and heav'n.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6-7*

Pastor: Mighty Lord of all, You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
We come to You to confess our sins and to receive Your forgiveness  
through Christ Jesus.

*(A time of silence is observed.)*

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: we confess to You that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
and that we cannot free ourselves.**

Pastor: We have questioned the goodness, justice, and authority of God.

**People: We have at times acted out of rivalry or conceit.**

Pastor: We have looked only to our own interests instead of the interests of others.

**People: We have grumbled and questioned.**

Pastor: We have not been of the same mind.

**People: Our love for You and for one another has faltered. Lead us to true  
repentance, Lord. Forgive our sins, both what we have done and left  
undone. Have mercy on us. Seek us, for You alone can find us and  
restore us.**

Pastor: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God of life and hope, You have given rescue to sinners in despair of their sins and to those marked for death. Turn our attention to Your mercy that we learn to rejoice in Your good will, that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of Christ our Savior; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## PSALM: *Psalms 25:1–5; antiphon v. 4*

Pastor: Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.

People: **In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.**

Pastor: I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

People: **No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.**

Pastor: Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.

People: **Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.**

**ALL:** *Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.*

## EPISTLE: *Philippians 2:1–18*

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

<sup>14</sup>Do everything without grumbling or arguing, <sup>15</sup>so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky <sup>16</sup>as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup>But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup>So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 21:23–32***

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

<sup>24</sup>Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>25</sup>John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin'— we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

<sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup> "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'

<sup>29</sup> "I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

<sup>30</sup> "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup> "Which of the two did what his father wanted?"

"The first," they answered.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    ***"O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"***

(v 1, 2, 3, 5)

[Edward Caswall / John B. Dykes. Public Domain]

O Jesus, King most wonderful!  
O Conqueror renowned!  
O Source of peace ineffable,  
In whom all joys are found:

When once You visit darkened hearts,  
Then truth begins to shine,  
Then earthly vanity departs,  
Then kindles love divine.

O Jesus, light of all below,  
The fount of life and fire,  
Surpassing all the joys we know,  
All that we can desire:

Oh, may our tongues forever bless,  
May we love You alone  
And ever in our lives express  
The image of Your own!

**SERMON: "GOD WANTS US TO BE ONE!"** *Philippians 2:1-5*

**NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: The Lord God calls us to turn to Him and live. So now let us turn to God in prayer, looking not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others.



Pastor: God of encouragement, Your love sustains the Church throughout the world. Strengthen the Church wherever two or three are gathered in Your name. Keep us from becoming arrogant, which might cause us to despise our neighbors. Help the Church to be unified. Preserve us from grumbling and questioning. Bless the work of missionaries and church leaders. Enable all congregations to be witnesses to Christ that at His name every knee shall bow and every tongue confess His lordship. We pray to the Lord,

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of justice, You are Ruler of rulers and Leader of leaders. Guide all who govern throughout the world, that their ways reflect Your way of justice for the poor and mercy for all. Watch over our military personnel in harm's way, and make Your comforting presence known to their families. Protect innocent people in war-torn nations. Preserve us from acts of terrorism. Reconcile us with our enemies. We pray to the Lord,

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of encouragement, Your mercy and faithful love have endured throughout the ages in all circumstances. Let Your love sustain and encourage those who are facing challenges. Bless those who are in danger, those who are feeling lonely or depressed, and those who feel separated from You. Help them to see that even in the midst of suffering, You are there with steadfast love. We pray to the Lord,

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of joy, Your Son, Jesus Christ, humbled Himself and gave His own life for us and for the whole world. Guide us to love and serve You humbly, so that many will see it and be drawn to You and turn and live. We pray to the Lord,

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: (Special petitions) We pray to the Lord,

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your paths. Lead us in Your truth and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation; for You we wait all the day long in the name of the One whose name is exalted above every name, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: All thanks and praise to You, Lord God, for Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Thank You for sending Your only-begotten Son to take on our flesh and to experience the world You created. Thank You for Jesus' humbling of Himself as He willingly took on the form of a servant and was obedient even unto death on a cross. Thank You for raising Him up from the grave and exalting His name above every name. Thank You for giving us this Meal, where we receive Christ's body and blood, that our lives may reflect the humility and self-sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. Thank You for nourishing us in both body and soul with this bread of life.

**People: Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\times$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\times$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

### ***"Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"***

[Henry E. Jacobs / Public Domain]

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray  
That we may feast on you today;  
Beneath these forms of bread and wine  
Enrich us with your grace divine.

Give us, who share this wondrous food,  
Your body broken and your blood,  
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,  
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

By faith your Word has made us bold  
To seize the gift of love retold;  
All that you are we here receive,  
And all we are to you we give.

One bread, one cup, one body, we  
Rejoicing in our unity,  
Proclaim your love until you come  
To bring your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:  
Oh, keep us steadfast till that day  
When each will be your welcomed guest  
In heaven's high and holy feast.

## THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

**People: for His steadfast love endures forever!**

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God, You make us both to will and to do those things that are good and acceptable in Your sight. Let Your fatherly hand ever guide us and Your Holy Spirit ever be with us to direct us in the knowledge and obedience of Your Word that we may rejoice in Your good pleasure all the days of our lives and be raised according to Your mercy to live in Your eternal presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

## HYMN

### ***"Lord, I Lift Your Name On High"***

[Rick Founds ©1989 Maranatha! Music, CCLI# 254312]

Lord, I lift Your name on high;  
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.  
I'm so glad You're in my life;  
I'm so glad You came to save us.

**REFRAIN:**

**You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.  
From the cross to the grave from the grave to the sky;  
Lord I lift Your name on high!**

Lord, we come before Your throne,  
Bowed in humble adoration.  
We're so glad to be Your own,  
So we sing in exaltation.

**(Refrain)**

**DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

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**Serving Us**

*Pastor ... Rev. Dennis Krueger*

*Organist ... Katherine Herman*

*Keyboard ... Jean Newton*

*Singers ... Linda Meissner, Marie Thompson*

*Altar ... Karen Hollowood*

*Deacon ... Jerry Meissner*

*Financials ... Dan & Lin Rowsell, Karen Tedesco*