

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2026

"The Relentless Love of God"

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!

THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: O Almighty God,

C: Merciful Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not fully lived as Your kingdom people. We have not brought forth the fruits of righteousness as we ought. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will, walk in Your ways, and bear kingdom fruit to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE INTROIT Psalm 118:22-24; *antiphon*: Psalm 118:1 (ESV)

P: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

C: for His steadfast love endures forever!

P: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

C: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: This is the day that the Lord has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

C: for His steadfast love endures forever!

THE HYMN OF PRAISE *"Glory to God in the Highest" (page 154 in the hymnal)*

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father:

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 5:1-7 (ESV)

Let me sing for my Beloved my love song concerning His vineyard: my Beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; He built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and He looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between Me and My vineyard. What more was there to do for My vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Philippians 3:4b-14 (ESV)

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the Law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(sung) (page 156 in the hymnal)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:33-46 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And

they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? [Psalm 118:22-23; Isaiah 28:16] Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this Stone will be broken to pieces; and when It falls on anyone, It will crush him." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest Him, they feared the crowds, because they held Him to be a prophet.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE 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.

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #540 *"Christ, the Word of God Incarnate"* (vv. 1-4)

1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of
 2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,
 3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of
 4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your

A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
 food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,
 Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es
 lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,

Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You
 Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the
 To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to
 Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good

shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our
 food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our
 You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful
 Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of

path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.
 thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.
 branch - es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.
 God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.

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THE SERMON *"The Relentless Love of God"* Text: Matthew 21:33-46

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #540 (vv. 5-6)

**5 Christ, the way that leads unailing
 To the Father's home on high,
 Christ, the truth that frees the captive,
 Christ, the life that cannot die.
 Mediator to the Father,
 Sacrifice and great High Priest:
 Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,
 There to share Your wedding feast.**

**△ 6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
 Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
 Christ, the life and resurrection,
 Christ, the Church's glorious head:
 Praise and thanks and adoration
 And unending worship be
 To the Father and the Spirit
 And to You eternally.**

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THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the words: "Let us pray to the Lord;" "Lord, have mercy.")

THE PREFACE *(responses are sung)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS *(page 161 in the hymnal)*

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE *(sung) (page 163 in the hymnal)*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS

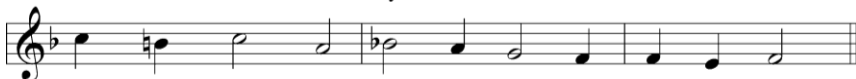
#623 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray That we may
2 Give us, who share this won-drous food, Your bod - y
3 By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the
4 One bread, one cup, one bod - y, we, Re - joic - ing
5 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray: O keep us



feast on You to - day; Be - neath these forms of
bro - ken and Your blood, The grate - ful peace of
gift of love re - told; All that You are we
in our u - ni - ty, Pro - claim Your love un -
stead - fast till that day When each will be Your



bread and wine En - rich us with Your grace di - vine.
sins for - giv'n, The cer - tain joys of heirs of heav'n.
here re - ceive, And all we are to You we give.
til You come To bring Your scat - tered loved ones home.
wel - comed guest In heav - en's high and ho - ly feast.

#644 "The Church's One Foundation"



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op-pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis-tressed,
She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more
And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,
Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,
O bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.
That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

#568 "If Your Beloved Son, O God"



1 If Your be - lov - ed Son, O God, Had not to earth de -
2 But now I find sweet peace and rest; De - spair no more reigns
3 I trust in Him with all my heart; Now all my sor - row
4 All righ-teous-ness by works is vain; The Law brings con - dem -
△ 5 My guilt, O Fa - ther, You have laid On Christ, Your Son, my



scend - ed And in our mor-tal flesh and blood Had not sin's
o'er me. No more am I by sin op-pressed, For Christ has
ceas - es. His words a - bid-ing peace im - part; His blood from
na - tion. True righ-teous-ness by faith I gain; Christ's work is
Sav - ior. Lord Je - sus, You my debt have paid And gained for



pow - er end - ed, Then this poor, wretch-ed soul of mine In
borne sin for me. Up - on the cross for me He died That,
guilt re - leas - es. Free grace through Him I now ob - tain; He
my sal - va - tion. His death, that per - fect sac - ri - fice, Has
me God's fa - vor. O Ho - ly Spir - it, Fount of grace, The



hell e - ter - nal - ly would pine Be - cause of my trans-gres - sion.
rec - on-ciled, I might a - bide With You, my God, for - ev - er.
wash-es me from ev - 'ry stain, And pure I stand be - fore Him.
paid the all - suf - fi - cient price; In Him my hope is an - chored.
good in me to You I trace; In faith and hope pre - serve me.

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, . . . ; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS