

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost † † September 20, 2026

P - Pastor ♦ C - Congregation ♦ A - Assisting Minister
ELW-Evangelical Lutheran Worship-Red ♦ **WOV**-With One Voice-Blue

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

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 ELW# 688 *Lord of Light*

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.

KYRIE

P Lord have mercy.

C Lord have mercy.

P Christ have mercy.

C Christ have mercy.

P Lord have mercy.

C Lord have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'For the Beauty of the Earth'. It features a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staff, with five numbered lines of text corresponding to the verses of the hymn.

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Prayer of the Day

P 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.

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?"

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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 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.

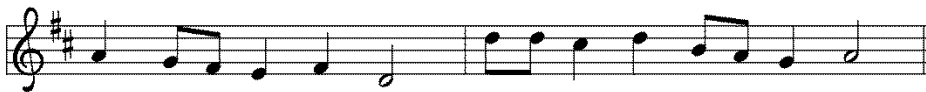
A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (please rise in body or spirit)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

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

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW # 588 *There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

APOSTLES CREED (*please rise in body or spirit*)

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at

the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

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

A brief silence.

A Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING  (please rise in body or spirit)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

LORD'S PRAYER (please rise in body or spirit)

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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.

BENEDICTION

SENDING

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN ELW # 669 *Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

POSTLUDE

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This week please hold in prayer: Mary Lou Zwiebel, Paul & Connie Long, Ed Panning, Lee Weirauch, Bob Lulfs, Ken Lange, Oneta Wiechers, Matt VonSeggern, Jude Gerken, Linda Hill, Scott Vasher, Terry Roehl, Joanne Neu, Natalie Long, Nancy Bressler, Cheryl Huffman, Rupert Schwienhagen, Jeanne Aderman, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

Altar Flowers

Are given to the Glory of God

Sunday School

Sunday School begins Today, September 20th following worship. **The preschool and kindergarten class will begin September 27th, not September 20th, due to scheduling conflicts.**

There are classes for students age 3 through 5th grade, confirmation for 6-8th grade (though our schedule shifts some), and a class for adults in the congregation (9th grade- adults). We hope you can join us for these learning opportunities!

Henry County Historical Society is holding an Afternoon Tea at First Presbyterian Church 303 W. Washington St. Napoleon, OH 43545, in support of Breast Cancer Awareness on Sunday 10.11.26 at 1:30 pm. This event will be catered by Mama Mir's Kitchen and reservations are required. Call Lois at 419-966-6781 for reservations. Cost is a free will donation with all proceeds going to The American Cancer Society.

Altar Flower Price Increase

Due to rising costs, the altar flowers will now be \$35 each starting July 5th. Please make note of this and increase your payment. If you're unable or unwilling to make this price jump, just let us know and we will update the list. Additionally, remember to bring the container back to Emanuel so it can be reused. On weeks that flowers have not been ordered, we will use a silk arrangement that matches the season. Thank you!

September Caring Corner will be collecting book bags to donate to local schools. Many children like starting out the new school year with a new book bag or may need a new one during the year when the one they have breaks

down. This can be a pricey school item for some families so we will be delivering these collected bags to area schools to be distributed to students who are in need. We will also be collecting food items for local pantries as the need is great.

October Caring Corner will once again be collecting coats, hats, and gloves. Be thinking ahead to this worthy cause when cleaning out your closet.

Office Hours Are Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12:30-5:00 and Tuesday and Thursday 7:30am-2:30 pm.

Church Attendance 9/10/26 **16**, 9/13/26 **98**, online **102**.

*The number used is the Viewers number at the beginning of the week. This reflects anyone who has watched it up until then.

This Week

Monday	9/21/26	6:30 pm	Newsletter Deadline Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9/23/26		No Open Office Hours
Thursday	9/24/26	9:30am 7:00 pm	Bible Study Worship
Sunday	9/27/26	9am 10am	Worship Sunday School

