

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

## September 19th 2021

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### Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

*Prospect*

Douglas E. Wagner

## Gathering Around the Word

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### Call to Worship

*from James 3:13-4:8*

One: Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

**All: We long to hear God's word spoken to our hearts.**

One: Who among you is seeking God's eternal and holy truth?

**All: We want to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.**

One: Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

**All: We desire lives of holiness and light.**

One: Our God grants wisdom generously to all who ask.

Come near, people of God!

**All: Let us worship in wisdom and truth.**

### Hymn 396

*Brethern, We Have Met to Worship (vrs. 1 & 4)*

HOLY MANNA

### Call to Confession

*from Mark 9:30-37*

Petty arguments and selfish desires often cloud our hearts, but Christ calls us to be humble and giving to all. And we're promised help and forgiveness, if we but ask! Dear friends, with penitent lips and hopeful hearts let us confess our sin together, knowing that grace and redemption are already poured out upon us.

### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God who loves us,

we live our lives the best we can:

dealing with strained relationships

and unfair situations;

letting go of failures and disappointments;

and moving into each new day

with all the energy, goodwill,

and hope we can muster.

But we confess that it's hard.

We seldom have the right answers,

and we often do not look for your wisdom;

we just push ahead blindly.

Forgive us for not seeking your insight.

**Fill us with your wisdom,  
that we might live in goodness and peace.  
In the name of Christ we pray; Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

*from Romans 5:8-9*

Dear friends, the amazing truth of God's love for us is this: even as we were sinners, Christ died for us and provided us with the gifts of freedom and life! The righteousness we received through his grace assures us of an eternal connection to the loving presence of God. Hear, believe, and proclaim this wonderful good news:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

### **Response**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

## Listening to the Word

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### **Prayer for Illumination of God's Word**

God of spirit and truth, your word is our wisdom; it brings insight, strength, and courage. Open our ears, hearts, and minds on this day, that we might receive what you want to give. Speak, Lord! Your people listen! **Amen.**

### **First Reading**          Psalm 1

The truly happy person

doesn't follow wicked advice,  
doesn't stand on the road of sinners,  
and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

<sup>2</sup> Instead of doing those things,  
these persons love the LORD's Instruction,  
and they recite God's Instruction day and night!

<sup>3</sup> They are like a tree replanted by streams of water,  
which bears fruit at just the right time  
and whose leaves don't fade.

Whatever they do succeeds.

<sup>4</sup> That's not true for the wicked!  
They are like dust that the wind blows away.

<sup>5</sup> And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice—  
neither will sinners  
in the assembly of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD is intimately acquainted  
with the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

## Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

### Anthem—No Anthem

#### Second Reading          Mark 9:30-37

<sup>30</sup> From there Jesus and his followers went through Galilee, but he didn't want anyone to know it. <sup>31</sup> This was because he was teaching his disciples, "The Human One<sup>[a]</sup> will be delivered into human hands. They will kill him. Three days after he is killed he will rise up." <sup>32</sup> But they didn't understand this kind of talk, and they were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup> They entered Capernaum. When they had come into a house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about during the journey?" <sup>34</sup> They didn't respond, since on the way they had been debating with each other about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be least of all and the servant of all." <sup>36</sup> Jesus reached for a little child, placed him among the Twelve, and embraced him. Then he said, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me isn't actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me."

### Sermon

## Responding to the Word

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#### Hymn

*As the Deer*

AS THE DEER

*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;  
you alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*

*Refrain:*

*You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.*

*You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*

**Affirmation of Faith**          Apostles' Creed

**Sharing our Prayers**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Dedicating our Gifts**

*The Lord daily showers us with wealth, blessings, and marvelous goodness.  
May our returned gifts become blessings to all who are touched through their use.*

**The Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Charge & Benediction**

**Blessing**

**Postlude**