

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 27, 2020**



**GOLD HILL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A CONGREGATION OF THE MONTANA SYNOD OF*

*THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)*

*Welcome to Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
and a special welcome to our guests and those returning after a time away.  
We're gathered as a Christian community to worship the Lord!*

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!  
Please let us know if there are other ways we can be of service.*

***Our Congregation's Mission Statement:  
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE***

***The Guiding Principles of God's People at Gold Hill Lutheran***

*Principle 1: Jesus Christ is our Lord & Savior*

*Principle 2: The Holy Spirit & worship strengthen us*

*Principle 3: We are a welcoming & inviting community in Christ*

*Principle 4: We share the Word with confidence and courage*

*Principle 5: Our faith leads us to serve joyfully*

*Principle 6: We are generous with our gifts*

**[www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT](http://www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT)**

**Check out our GROWING website at [www.GoldHillLutheran.org](http://www.GoldHillLutheran.org)**

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**Today's Worship Leader**

**Worship Leader:**

**Pastor Marlow Carrels**

**Lector:**

**Vern Nielsen**

**Music Leader:**

**Dave Coleman**

**Ushers:**

**Chris Ketchum, Annette Lawson**

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Bolded texts are said in unison.

**Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Invocation**

We gather in the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin  
to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**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 loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**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 and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his  
authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness  
of all your sins, in the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## Announcements

### Entrance Hymn: *Here I Am, Lord ELW 574*

- 1 “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”

*Refrain:*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

- 2 “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne by people’s pain.  
I have wept for love of them. My hand will save.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?”

*Refrain:*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

- 3 “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?”

*Refrain:*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**God of love, giver of life,  
you know our frailties and failings.  
Give us your grace to overcome them,  
keep us from those things that harm us,  
and guide us in the way of salvation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## **Word**

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

## **Blessing of Lectors**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Bless those who will read to us the scriptures. Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## **First Reading:**

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you.**

Let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup>**Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.**

<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup>**Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God  
of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.

<sup>7</sup>**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.

<sup>9</sup>**You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and



## Hymn of the Day: *As the Deer Runs to the River ELW 331*

- 1 As the deer runs to the river,  
parched and weary from the chase,  
we have come from hurt and hurry,  
thirsting for your healing grace.

*Refrain:* Jesus, source of living water,  
may we drink of you and live!

- 2 When your Israel crossed the desert  
where no stream or spring was seen,  
Moses struck the rock, and water  
flowed for them, refreshing, clean.

*Refrain:* Jesus, source of living water,  
may we drink of you and live!

- 3 “Come and drink,” Isaiah summoned,  
“all who for God’s mercy plead!  
God’s forgiveness, like a fountain,  
flows to satisfy your need.”

*Refrain:* Jesus, source of living water,  
may we drink of you and live!

- 4 Christ, we come from desert places,  
deepest thirst unsatisfied.  
Lead us to the waters flowing  
from the cross on which you died.

*Refrain:* Jesus, source of living water,  
may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

## Apostles’ Creed

**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**

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*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

### **The Prayers**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation,  
let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

*Each portion of the prayer concludes:*

**Hear our prayer.**

### **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Offering Prayer**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.

Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Although our road has been stony going, you have given us the power to stand firm in the face of wickedness and to rejoice in triumph over death and the grave. And so, with the multitude from east and west, from north and south, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in the unending hymn:

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts to establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to receive our Redeemer who comes to us in his body and blood.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours,  
almighty Father, now and forever.**

**Amen**

## **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**

## **Distribution of Communion**

### **Prayer**

Let us pray.

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen**

*Silence for reflection.*

## **Sending**

### **Benediction**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen**

**Sending Hymn: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* ELW 543**

- 1 “Go, my children, with my blessing,  
never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,  
you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing,  
you are my own.”
  
- 2 “Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you,  
what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son’s story,  
here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven,  
at peace and pure.”
  
- 3 “Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving,  
joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you,  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished,  
joyful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**