

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary 26 A

September 27, 2020 † Mount Olive Lutheran Church



## Focus on the Season: The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 26 A

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Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. Rather than complain at God's generosity, or, like the people in the wilderness did, assume there isn't enough abundance in God's giving to care for all, we would do better to repent and turn to God for life. The liturgy does not protect us from others; it teaches us to be repentant people, a people of hospitality, generous in faith, hope, and love.

*Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.*



## Centering and Gathering

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Light your candle. **[Start the video by clicking here](#)**; it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: "God Be In My Head" John Rutter  
*Sung by singers of the Mount Olive Cantorei, recorded on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.*

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 520, "Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"  
*Sung at Mount Olive on the Third Sunday after Epiphany, Lect. 3 A, January 22, 2017.*

## Word

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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Apostolic greeting is on the video)*

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

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7; reader – Kandi Jo Nelson, lector

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

PSALM: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 *Sing along with the leaders in the video; the tone is there.*

*Recorded by singers of the Cantorei on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear my teaching, <sup>1</sup> O my people; \* incline your ears to the words <sup>1</sup> of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>I will open my mouth <sup>1</sup> in a parable; \* I will declare the mysteries of <sup>1</sup> ancient times—

<sup>3</sup>that which we have heard and known, and what our fore- <sup>1</sup> bears have told us, \* we will not hide <sup>1</sup> from their children.

<sup>4</sup>We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power <sup>1</sup> of the LORD, \* and the wonderful works <sup>1</sup> God has done.

<sup>12</sup>God worked marvels in the sight <sup>1</sup> of their ancestors, \* in the land of Egypt, in the <sup>1</sup> field of Zoan,

<sup>13</sup>splitting open the sea and letting <sup>1</sup> them pass through; \* making the waters stand <sup>1</sup> up like walls;

<sup>14</sup>leading them with a <sup>1</sup> cloud by day, \* and all the night with a <sup>1</sup> glow of fire;

<sup>15</sup>splitting the rocks <sup>1</sup> in the wilderness \* and giving them drink as <sup>1</sup> from the deep;

<sup>16</sup>bringing streams out <sup>1</sup> of a rock, \* making them flow down <sup>1</sup> like a river.

SECOND READING: Philipians 2:1-13; reader – Janet Meeks, assisting minister

*Paul writes:* <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 on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 174, “Celtic Alleluia”

*Sung before and after the Gospel reading.*

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 18 B, August 5, 2018.*

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup> “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup> He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

*Silence for reflection*

HYMN: ELW 776 “What God Ordains Is Good Indeed”

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 26 A, September 28, 2014.*

#### INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Janet Meeks, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

#### OFFERING

*There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:*

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

### *Sending*

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LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 806, “O God, My Faithful God”

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 26 A, September 28, 2014.*

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☒ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Fantasia in C Major, BWV 570

J. S. Bach

*Recorded on the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 25 B, September 23, 2018.*



### **In Our Prayers**

- Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Elizabeth Beissel, Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Victor Gebauer; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; John Wall, Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Dan & Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, Reba Zumberge, relatives of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Logan Bushaw, friend of Allen & Lora Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in

Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Nicole Sanders and Ann Clark, daughter and friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Todd Erickson, friend of Jean & Doug Parish; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Scott Kingman, father of Anna Scott; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Norlene Bateman, aunt of Ted Thompson; Jennifer Kobylinski, cousin of Kathy Thurston; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Weichman, Levi Boswell, son and nephew of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilkes and Julius Underwood, and Lonell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy Bonnes, Jan Harper (spouse of former Mount Olive vicar, the late Jean Hay); Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

- **At the death of:** Violet, infant daughter of Anna and Eric Dundek Bell (grandchild of Allen & Lora Dundek); Trisha Niemi-Haapoja, friend of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny.
- **In hospice care:** Dan Adams.
- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Genevra Beilke, Karla Hanson, Jerry Ostlund, Adam Ruff, Jessinia Ruff, and Gary Wilson.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.
- **We remember the saints who have gone before us:**

**September 29:** *St. Michael and All Angels* – Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

**September 30:** *St. Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420* – Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.