

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday September 19th, 2026,
Sunday, September 20th, 2026,

4:30 pm
9:00 am



Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

300 Logan St.
Merrill, WI 54452
Pastor Mike Southcomb
Pastor Justin Smoot

715-536-5813
www.oslcelca.org
Saturday
Sunday
Bea Lebal, Organist



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

At OSLC, we have a tradition of participating in worship, because it is our gathering to practice prayer and fellowship.

- Bold Print indicates responses spoken by all.
- You are encouraged to listen to your body and stand if you are comfortable doing so.
- Children are welcome in worship. If they want to help out with any portion of the service they can do so, just ask the pastor. There is also a place for them to color and play on the north side of the worship space. Sitting up front is also an effective way to help them see what is going on.
- On Sunday morning, the ushers will pass the offering plates, but we also have a QR code that will take you to our Vanco (online giving) site.
- All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Our Saviour's. Please come forward as indicated. Please fill out a communion card so that we can have a record of who communion. You can also use the communion cards or visitor cards to reach out to the pastor.
- We have large print bulletins if you need them as well as hearing devices with headphones



GATHERING

*For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them. (Matthew 18:20)*

Announcements

Altar flowers are given in honor of John English from his family – Julie, Jean, Katie, Tom, Sue, and Cindy.

Sing for Joy is sponsored by..... Brenda & Tom Mueller

Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

**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*

Let us pray,

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

*So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty. (Isaiah 55:10-11)*

EXODUS 16:2-15

Faced with hunger in the wilderness, the Israelites longed for life back in Egypt and wished they had never left. Then God miraculously and graciously gave them quails and manna to eat.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 105:1-6, 37-45

¹ Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name; make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

² Sing to the Lord, sing praises, and speak of all God's marvelous works.

³ Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

⁴ Search for the strength of the Lord; continually seek God's face.

⁵ Remember the marvels God has done, the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,

⁶ O offspring of Abraham, God's servant, O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones. *Make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples. Hallelujah!*

³⁷ You led out your people with silver and gold; in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

³⁸ Egypt was glad to see them go, because they were a-fraid of them.

³⁹ You spread out a cloud for a covering and a fire to give light by night.

⁴⁰ They asked, and you brought quail, and satisfied them with bread from heaven.

⁴¹ You opened the rock, and water flowed, so the river ran in the dry places.

⁴² For you remembered your holy word and Abraham your servant. *Make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.*

⁴³ So you led forth your people with gladness, your chosen with shouts of joy.

⁴⁴ You gave your people the lands of the nations, and they took the fruit of others' toil,

⁴⁵ that they might keep your statutes and observe your teachings. Hallelujah!

Make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples. Hallelujah!

**Gospel Acclamation*

*We stand and sing to welcome the Gospel reading
as we would welcome Christ.*



**MATTHEW 20:1-16*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20th chapter
Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

The Gospel of Our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pr. Mike Southcomb – Saturday

Pr. Justin H. Smoot - Sunday

**Hymn of the Day*

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**Apostles Creed*

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe and are marked with the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, let us profess our faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

**Prayers of Intercession*

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

Each petition ends with the following response.

...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

**Peace*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please greet one another with a sign of peace.

MEAL

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (Acts 2:42)

Offering

Saturday: Please place your offering in the plates in back.

Sunday: The ushers will collect the offering, if you wish to give electronically, please visit our website: oslcelca.org or scan the QR code.



***Confession and Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Since then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us bring every burden before God.

Beloved of God! Let us draw near to God, confess our sins, seeking forgiveness in the name of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ with the confidence that God justifies us by grace through faith.

Our help is in the Lord our God, who created the heavens and the earth.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

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.

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.

Amen.

**Dialogue*

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, our duty and our joy...And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Eucharistic Prayer*

**Lord's Prayer*

Gathered around our Lord's Table, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

**Invitation to Communion*

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Distribution

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE

We have gluten-free hosts available. The lighter colored drink is non-alcoholic. Please fill out a communion card or a visitor card and hand it to the ushers who will direct you down the center aisle.

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

SENDING

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus . . . May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (Romans 15:5, 13)

**Benediction*

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

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****Dismissal***

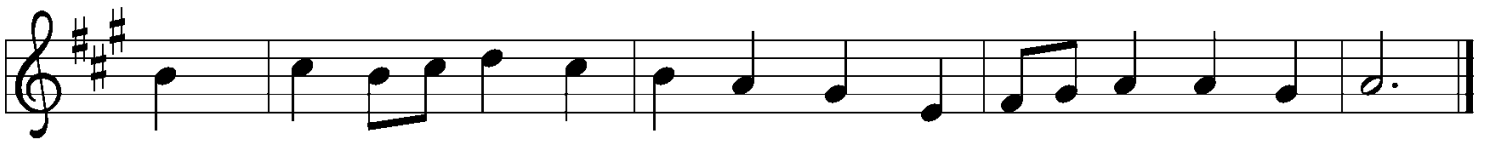
Go in peace. Serve the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Rise Up, O Saints of God!



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
300 Logan St. Merrill, WI 54452
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm
oslcelca.org office@oslcelca.org 715-536-5813
Pastor@oslcelca.org

Sing For Joy

Sunday morning at 10:00 am, we broadcast the St. Olaf Collage's Sing for Joy radio program. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor of, or in memory of, anyone, or just because you love religious music, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway. You can also contact the church office as well.



Prayer List



Lois Ullman, Adam Norman, Cash Beyer, Carri Leyk, Laurie Sprague, Earleen Fox, Katie Hahn, John Hahn, Andy Semling, Chad Semling, Gene Bebel, Gilman Smoot, Richard Ollmann, Elayne Ollman, Sarah Willman, Jane Eshleman, Jerrald Laak, Lee Ann and Lindy Lindquist, Larry Lebal, Barbara Kampstra (Bea Lebal's Sister), Scott Buttke Halena Anderson, Jerry Wick, and the family of Megan

(Latzig) Tugnoli.

Lutheran World Relief...

Is in urgent need of Personal Care kits. It is our goal to create 100 of these this year. You can help by purchasing dark colored bath towels (Walmart has appropriate ones for \$2.97), and bath size bars of soap. If you prefer not to shop, we will do it for you. Make donations out to **WELCA**. The last day to turn in supplies is **9/20/2026** – **we will be assembling the kits after worship on Sunday**. Disasters continue and these kits are a first need in these areas. Thank you very much.

Peace, Kathi P

This Week's Events September 20th - September 26th

SEPTEMBER 20 TH	9:00 am Worship Service
SEPTEMBER 21 ST	6:45 pm Bible Study
SEPTEMBER 22 ND	6:00 pm Council Meeting
SEPTEMBER 23 RD	10:30 am Faithful Followers 6:00 pm Confirmation
SEPTEMBER 24 TH	8:30 am Mission Sewing
SEPTEMBER 26 TH	9:00 – 11:00 am Diaper Closet 4:30 pm Worship Service



Birthdays This Week – September 20th - September 26th



September 20 th	Ruth Nelson-Lau
September 21 st	Halena Anderson Dennis Blake Cooper Theorin
September 24 th	Greg Latzig
September 25 th	Steve Schlinkert
September 26 th	Cherly Dohm Mardell Johnson Ann Wick

If you know of additions or corrections to the Birthday list, please let the office know so that we can update our records.

Sunday Fellowship

Pr. Justin will usually make a pot of regular coffee; all we need is some sweet treats from you. Sign up in the lounge or surprise us!

September 20 th	Aimee Viljevac
September 27 th	Korrine O'Malley



God's Work, Our Hands – Your Hands Needed!

The Diaper Closet has been in operation for three years now and has seen a steady increase in usage. We are so grateful for the generosity of our church and community in helping us to keep the shelves stocked so we are able to keep up with the growing demand.

The Diaper Closet now needs volunteers to help keep operations running smoothly. Because several faithful volunteers are facing health issues, we are seeking people to staff the closet on the second Tuesday of each month from 3–5 p.m. or the fourth Saturday from 9–11 a.m. Two volunteers are needed for each shift. Linda Blake covers nearly every shift, and we are deeply grateful for her dedication. If you can help every month or two, or join our substitute list, please contact Dona at (715) 539-3259 or Brenda at (715) 536-1701. Thank you to everyone who has helped bring this ministry to the Merrill community!

Your OS Outreach Team

God's Work, Our – Bees? – Beehive Project Update



The presentation by Cody Bergman was well received. We thank everyone for your generosity in supporting God's Work, Our Hands ELCA Beehive Project.

If you would still like to contribute, the donation bucket will remain out through the end of September. Donations may also be dropped off or mailed in to the church office – make sure that you indicate it is for the Beehive Project.

By the way, Cody says that bees have six knees – so now we know that bees really do have knees!

Your OS Outreach Team

Thank You!

I want to say **THANK YOU** to Deb Schleif, Brenda Mueller and Korrine O'Malley for stepping in to help out in the office while I was on vacation. It was greatly appreciated. Laurie Thiel

News From the Quilters

The quilters are going to display some of their fine work at our worship services. They are samples of the work they have done and what we will be sending to World Relief. The quilts are also available for purchase for \$50 each.

Some News from East Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

| Social Statement Synod Study Offered this Fall: Faith and Civic Life

The ELCA Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life sets forth the ELCA's teaching about how disciples and this church may faithfully speak and act in civic life. While existing ELCA social statements and messages address specialized elements of social life, this statement addresses the broad responsibility for seeking the good of all through civic participation. It sketches a vision of a just and robust civic life dedicated to the well-being of all while giving extended attention to the relationship of faith and political authority.

Synod Implementation & Resources

The East Central Synod of Wisconsin leadership, including Bishop Anne Edison-Albright and Vice President Nancy Schanke, will host a six-session study series to help congregations explore and discuss the social statement.

Session Dates (choose either the morning or evening session each week)

- **Session 1 — November 3, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 2 —November 10, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 3 —November 17, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 4 —November 24, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 5 —December 1, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Session 6 —December 8, 2026:** 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Please save the dates! Registration information will be available soon.