

# The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

THE HOLY EUCHARIST (RITE II) WITH PRAYERS FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION CARE

10:00 am



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Knowing • Loving • Serving  
God + Neighbor

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*As we prepare for worship, please make sure your cell phone is silenced.*

## **The Word of God**

### **The Prelude**

***This is My Father's World***

arr. Michael Burkhardt

*Please stand as you are able as the bell is rung.*

### **The Opening Hymn 427 When morning gilds the skies**

*Laudes Domini*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### **The Collect for Purity**

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

*People* The Lord be with you.

*Celebrant* **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Grant us, O God, your vision of a renewed earth in which heaven comes to rest; and even now, while we too often despair of healing and wholeness, to hold fast to your promise and commit again to active hope; through Jesus Christ the Wisdom of Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the scripture appointed.*

### **The Lessons**

#### **A reading from the prophet Jonah (3:10-4:11)**

When God saw what they 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. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 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 God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' 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. 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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 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.’ But God said to Jonah, ‘Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?’ And he said, ‘Yes, angry enough to die.’ Then the Lord said, ‘You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?’

The Word of the Lord.  
*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 145:1-8** (*prayed responsively by whole verse.*)

**Leader:** I will exalt you, O God my King, \*  
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

**People:** Every day will I bless you \*  
and praise your Name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
there is no end to his greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another \*  
and shall declare your power.**

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty \*  
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, \*  
and I will tell of your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; \*  
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**Second Reading** from *The Art of the Commonplace*, Wendell Berry

What is good for the world will be good for us. That requires that we make the effort to know the world and to learn what is good for it. We must learn to cooperate in its processes, and to yield to its limits. But even more important, we must learn to acknowledge that the creation is full of mystery; we will never entirely understand it. We must abandon arrogance and stand in awe. We must recover the sense of the majesty of creation, and the ability to be worshipful in its presence. For I do not doubt that it is only on the condition of humility and reverence before the world that our species will be able to remain in it.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Wendell Erdman Berry (b. 1934) is an American novelist, poet, essayist, environmental activist, cultural critic, and farmer. Over the years, he has called himself an agrarian, a pacifist, and a Christian—albeit of an eccentric kind. He has written against all forms of violence and destruction—of land, communities, and human beings—and argued that the modern American way of life is a skein of violence.*

*Please stand as you are able for the sequence hymn and the reading of the gospel.*

**The Sequence Hymn 385 Many and great, O God, are thy works**

*Dakota Indian Chant*

*People* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 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?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 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.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*People* The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Patrick C. Ward

*Please stand as you are able for the Creed.*

**The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*You may continue to stand or sit or kneel for the prayers as your personal piety guides you.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

Adapted from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons*

We lift our petitions to Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, saying “hear our prayer.”

Eternal God: We thank you for the beauty of the World, for the teeming life of the seas, the flight of birds, and the diversity of animal life. Grant us grace to treat Creation with respect and care; to protect endangered species, to preserve the variety of habitats, and to honor the delicate balance of nature. God of life: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the wealth of blessings from land and sea; for the power of wind, and the warmth of sun. We pray for the nations of the earth, give us the will to cherish this planet and to use its resources sustainably for the welfare of all. God of justice: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the faithful witness of the Church, called to reconcile and heal: For our parish and for our diocese. For our presiding bishop, Sean, and for our diocesan bishop, Julia. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray also for St. Peter’s Church, Beverly; St. John’s Church, Beverly Farms; All Saints Episcopal Church of the North Shore, Danvers; St. John’s Church, Gloucester; and the Essex County Community Organization. God of grace: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the human family. We exult in our diversity and giftedness; we repent of our sins, divisions and violence. By the power of your Spirit, restore your image within us. As every human being is known and loved by you, may we care for one another with love and respect. We remember those in our community who have asked for our prayers, including Terese Brown, Maureen Cardenas, the Gallahue family, Joanne Gamble, Nancy Haak, Joan, Andrew Payne, Pam Soderholm, Barbara and Philip Sousa, Dottie Walsh, Alex, Bob, Carole, Cathi, Charlie, Dave, Kristy, Lauren, Pat, Rachel and Sally and those we name before you now. [Pause] God of compassion: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died and those we name before you now, whom we entrust to your eternal love. [Pause]. May we support and comfort those who mourn. God of peace: **hear our prayer.**

## **The Concluding Collect**

Gracious God: Grant that your people may have in them the same mind that was in Jesus Christ, and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **The Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*People*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **The Greeting and Announcements**

### **The Holy Communion**

#### **The Offertory**

#### ***Rivers of Living Water***

Karen Marrolli

There shall be rivers of living water, there shall be streams of spirit light.

There shall be rivers of living water that cleanse the soul and give us sight.

There shall be pathways of flowing fountains, where rivers seek us to embrace.

O let the thirsty come before him and drink the well of healing grace.

O does your soul cry out for oneness, like the deserts seek the rain,

Like the deer longs for the wellsprings? Great spirit, quench us and sustain.

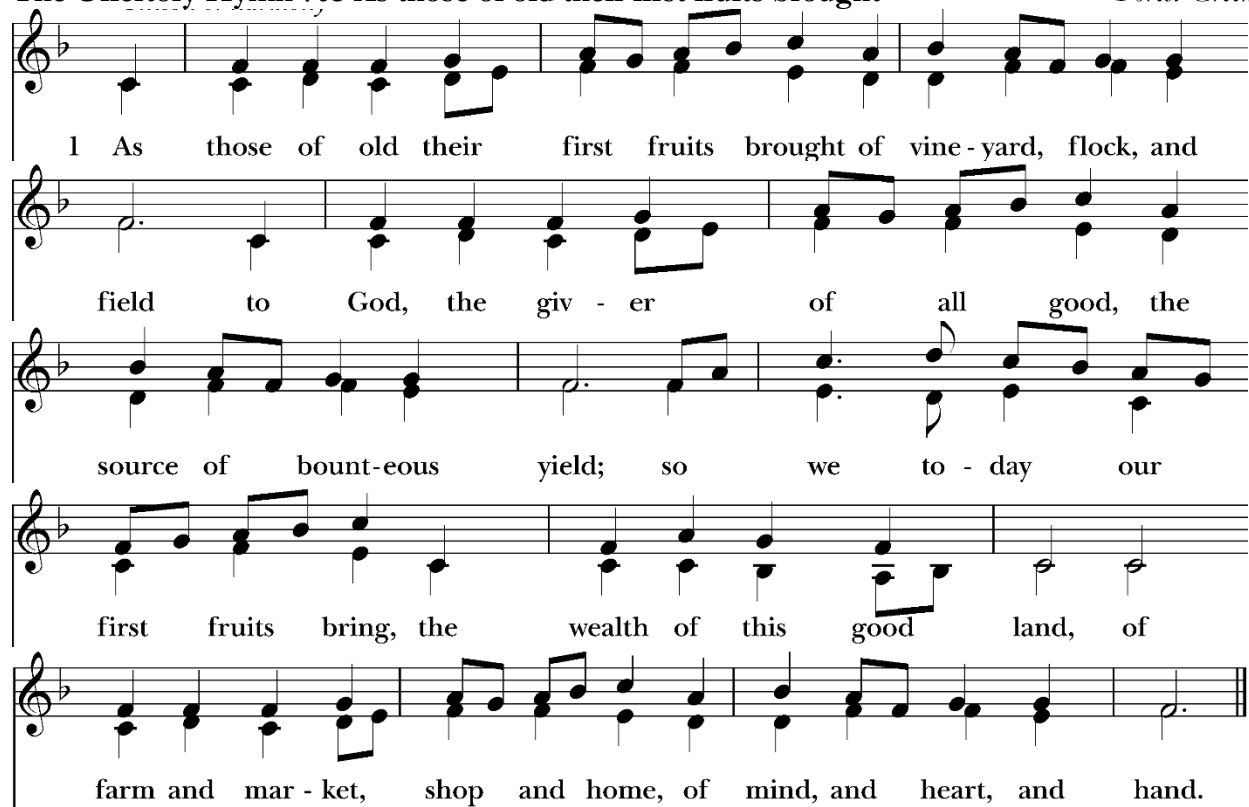
There shall be rivers of living water; there shall be streams of healing bliss.

There shall be rivers of living water. Praise God for this, praise God for this.

*Please stand as you are able as our offering is presented.*

## The Offertory Hymn 705 As those of old their first fruits brought

*Forest Green*



1 As those of old their first fruits brought of vine-yard, flock, and  
field to God, the giv - er of all good, the  
source of bount-eous yield; so we to - day our  
first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land, of  
farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind, and heart, and hand.

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord.

*People* And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Enriching Our Worship, Prayer I*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation, as we sing:

## Sanctus S 129

Powell

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

might, hea - ven 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.\_\_\_\_\_

*You may remain standing, kneel or sit for the remainder of the Eucharistic prayer as your personal piety guides you.*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us and so we violated your creation, harmed one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: *"Take, eat This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."*

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: *"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name forever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

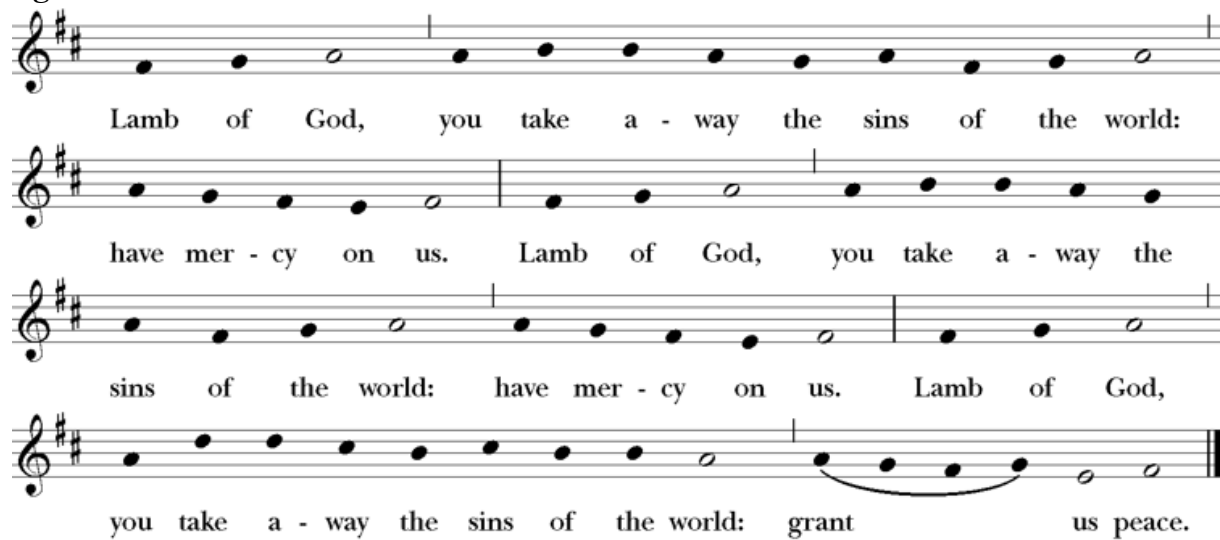
## **The Breaking of the Bread**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## Agnus Dei S 161

Hurd



The gifts of God for you, the beloved people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## The Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*We offer the following prayer each week in solidarity with those viewing from home.*

**Holy Jesus, Redeemer of the World, we believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament of this altar. Even while some of us are unable to receive you in the elements of bread and wine, we invite you to enter our hearts and be our companion along the way. Waiting in hope, we know that you are present in every moment of our lives and will never leave us comfortless. For all good things come from you O Lord, and from that goodness, lead us to the love of others. For you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.**

*All are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine. You may stand or kneel to receive. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available; simply make your needs known to the person serving you. If you wish a blessing instead of the elements, cross your arms over your chest as the priest approaches you.*

## The Communion Hymns

Hymn 341 For the bread which you have broken

*Omni die*

Hymn 482 Lord of all hopefulness

*Slane*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Prayer after Communion

*Enriching Our Worship*

Let us pray.

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## The Sending *(when lay eucharistic visitors are scheduled to make home or hospital visits)*

*Celebrant* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread and the one cup.**

## The Blessing<sup>2</sup>

Go out into the world rejoicing, and encounter the Creator who waits to meet you there; Savor the earth's richness and diversity and live as those who praise God for its bounty; and the blessing of the God, the Eternal Creator, the Risen Christ and the Promised Holy Spirit bless you, and may you be a blessing to others today and always. **Amen.**

## The Closing Hymn 409 The spacious firmament on high

*Creation*

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## The Postlude

*Arrival of the Queen of Autumn*

G.F.Handel

Our Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God  
and in loving memory of  
Edith T. Harman,  
Mortimer F. Harman  
and Pamela A. Harman  
by the Harman and Hamke families.

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<sup>2</sup> from Green Anglican's *Season of Creation 2024: To Act and Hope with Creation*, page ix.

|                              |                                          |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <i>Celebrant</i>             | The Rev. Nancy J. Hagner                 |
| <i>Preacher</i>              | The Re. Patrick C. Ward                  |
| <i>Music Director</i>        | Joan Kirchner                            |
| <i>Eucharistic Ministers</i> | Kate Paradise, Gail Binney-Sterne        |
| <i>Readers</i>               | Nancy Boccia, Earle Bailey, Rich Gregory |
| <i>Ushers</i>                | Sue and Jack Sasso                       |
| <i>Altar Guild</i>           | Brenda Husson                            |
| <i>Altar Flower Guild</i>    | Nikki Carter                             |
| <i>Audio/Video</i>           | Jennifer Marlin                          |

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\*To connect to our Hearing Assist system via blue tooth, please see the instructions below.



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