

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Opening Hymn

“Give Us Clean Hands”

All

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees; Oh Spir - it, come make us hum ble.

We turn our eyes from e - vil things; Oh Lord, we cast down our i -

dols. Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts; Let us not lift our souls to an-

oth - er. Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts; Let us not lift our souls to an-

oth - er. And oh God, let us be a gen - er - a - tion that seeks that seeks Your face,

— oh God of Ja - cob; And oh God, let us be a gen er - a - tion that seeks

— that seeks Your face, — oh — God of Ja - cob.

## Invocation

### Confession & Absolution

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**People:** Gracious God, with contrition and repentance, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all of our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.

Pastor: God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

<sup>23</sup> And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up 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 answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was 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 do these things. <sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup> And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but 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 say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

**Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Sermon**

Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. <sup>2</sup> For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive." <sup>3</sup> There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine." <sup>4</sup> And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards. <sup>5</sup> Now our flesh is as the flesh

of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards.”<sup>6</sup> I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words.<sup>7</sup> I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, “You are exacting interest, each from his brother.” And I held a great assembly against them<sup>8</sup> and said to them, “We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!” They were silent and could not find a word to say.<sup>9</sup> So I said, “The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?”<sup>10</sup> Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest.<sup>11</sup> Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them.”<sup>12</sup> Then they said, “We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say.” And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised.

## **Prayer**

### **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.

## **Benediction**

### **Closing Hymn**

“Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”

All



1. O soul, are you wea - ry and trou - bled? No light in the dark-ness you see?  
2. Through death in - to life ev - er - last - ing, He passed, and we fol - low Him there;  
3. His Word shall not fail you—He prom - ised; Be - lieve Him, and all will be well:



There's light for a look at the Sav - ior, And life more a - bun - dant and free!  
O'er us sin no more hath do - min - ion— For more than con-qu'rors we are!  
Then go to a world that is dy - ing, His per - fect sal - va - tion to tell!

*Refrain*



Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, Look full in His won-der-ful face, And the



things of earth will growstrange - ly dim, In the light of His glo - ry and grace.

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