

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side, we will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: *Refrain*
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *Refrain*

APOSTLE'S CREED **ELW page 105**

SHARING THE PEACE L) The peace of Christ be with you all. **C) *And also with you.***

OFFERING/OFFERING SONG **“We Give Thee but Thine Own”** **ELW #686**
We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH L) Lord in your mercy
C) *Hear our Prayer*



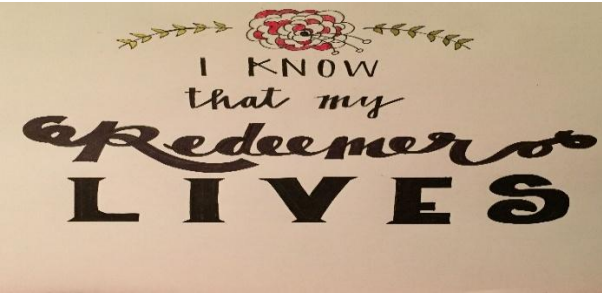
- HOLY COMMUNION** *(continuous)*
- ✚ **Words of Institution**
 - ✚ **The Lord's Prayer** - ELW page 112
 - ✚ **Distribution of the Sacrament**
 - ✚ **Benediction**

CLOSING SONG **“I Know That My Redeemer Lives! V-1,2,4** **ELW #618**

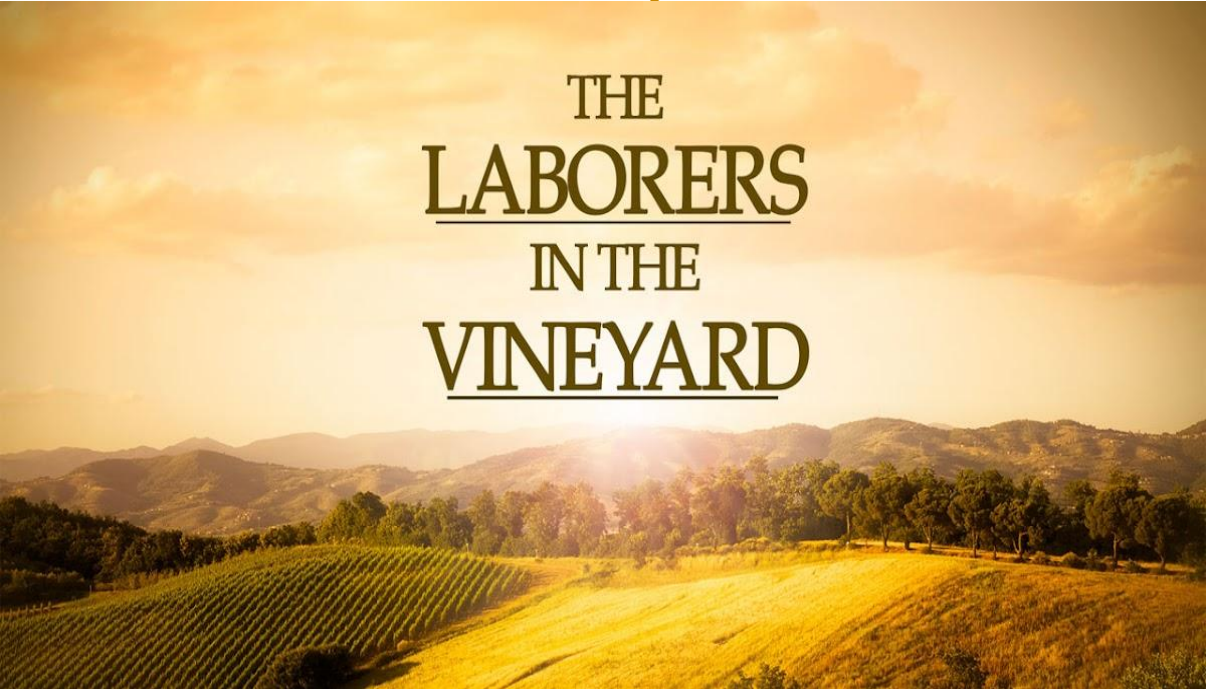
- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.
- 4 He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

DISMISSAL L) Go in peace, Serve the Lord and your neighbors. **C) *Thanks be to God!***

POSTLUDE



Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost



Willow Creek and Benton Lutheran Churches
September 20th, 2026
Vicar Kendra Kappler and Pastor Renae Boehmer
Accompanist: Lisa Rave, Willow Creek, Kari Vosburg, Benton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose mercy is everlasting and whose love is never-ending.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (Silence kept for reflection)

Merciful God, ***we confess that we often measure ourselves and others by what we have done, what we have earned, and what we think we deserve. We compare our lives with those around us and become envious of another's blessings. We keep score of who has worked harder, who has given more, and who we think is worthy of your grace. We forget that all we have is a gift from you. Forgive us, O God, for the ways we have trusted in ourselves rather than your mercy. Free us from resentment and comparison. Turn our hearts toward gratitude, generosity, and love. Amen.***

Hear the good news: God's grace is not measured by our accomplishments, and God's mercy is not limited by our calculations. In Jesus Christ, God meets us with forgiveness, claims us as beloved, and gives us new life. By the grace of Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Take My Life, That I May Be” v- 1,3,5,6

ELW #685

- 1 Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
 take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
 take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.
- 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Generous and merciful God, *you meet us with love that we cannot earn and grace that is greater than our understanding. Free us from envy and resentment and give us grateful hearts that rejoice in your goodness to all your children. Make us generous in the way we live, serve, forgive, and love, that we may reflect the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

FIRST READING Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] 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.
^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He 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 and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then 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.
⁶The 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. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When 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.”
⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”
L) Word of God, Word of Life. *All) Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING Psalm 78:52-58,70-72

⁵²Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.
⁵³*He led them in safety so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.*
⁵⁴And he brought them to his holy hill, to the mountain that his right hand had won.
⁵⁵*He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.*
⁵⁶Yet they tested the Most High God and rebelled against him. They did not observe his decrees
⁵⁷*but turned away and were faithless like their ancestors; they twisted like a treacherous bow.*

⁵⁸For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols.
⁷⁰*He chose his servant David and took him from the sheepfolds;*
⁷¹from tending the nursing ewes he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel, his inheritance.
⁷²*With upright heart he tended them and guided them with skillful hand.*
L) Word of God, Word of Life. *All) Thanks be to God.*

CHILDREN’S SONG/MESSAGE “Jesus, Loves the Little Children”

Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white. They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for You.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And 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?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When 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.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘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.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”
L) Word of God, word of life. *All) Thanks be to God.*

SERMON “Bigger Than Our Calculations” Vicar Kendra Kappler

HYMN OF THE DAY “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord we are one in the Spirit we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored: *Refrain*

Refrain: And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love; yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, we will walk with each other we will walk hand in hand, and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land: *Refrain*