

HOLY COMMUNION (continuous)

- ✚ Words of Institution
- ✚ The Lord’s Prayer - ELW page 112
- ✚ Distribution of the Sacrament
- ✚ Benediction

CLOSING SONG “On Our Way Rejoicing” ELW #537

- 1 On our way rejoicing gladly let us go. Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy; who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

Refrain

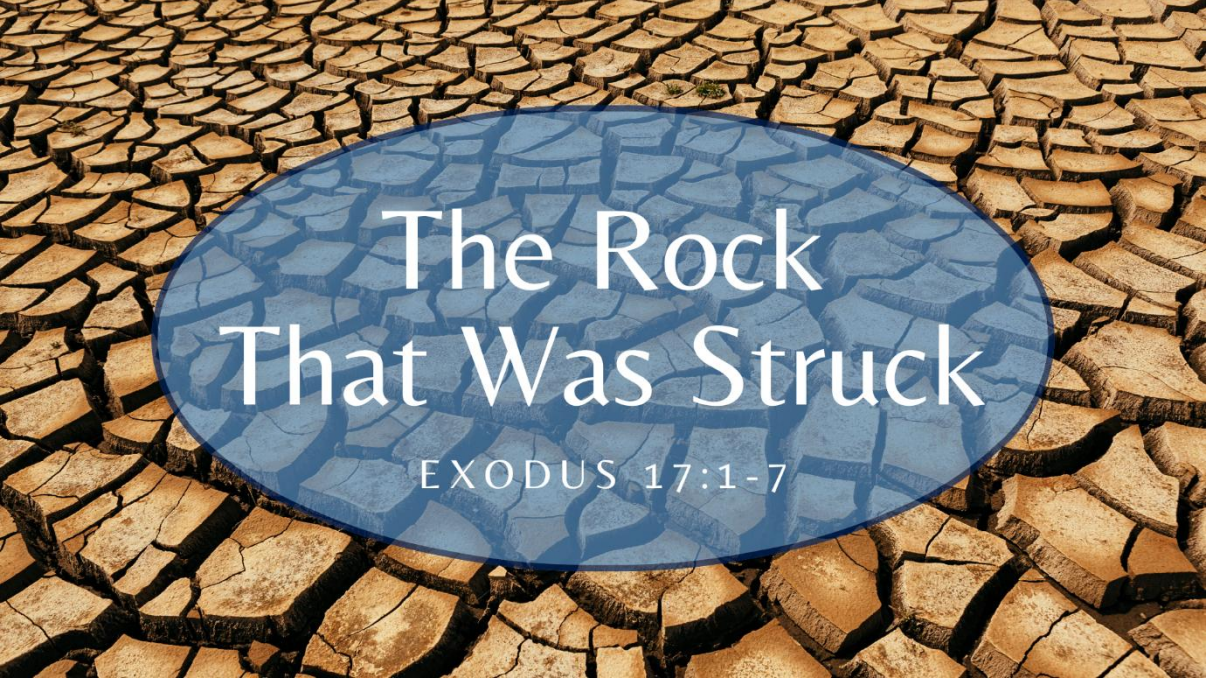
- On our way rejoicing; as we forward move, hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!
- 2 Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing; unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;  
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore, on our way rejoicing now and evermore. *Refrain*

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

POSTLUDE



Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost



Willow Creek and Benton Lutheran Churches

September 27th, 2026

Vicar Kendra Kappler and Pastor Renae Boehmer

Accompanist: Paul Mesner, Willow Creek, Kari Vosburg, Benton

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

Gracious God, *have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. *Amen.*

GATHERING HYMN

“Jesus Shall Reign” v-1,2,5

ELW #434

- 1

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2

To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- 5

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our king;  
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**  
Gracious God, *when we find ourselves in dry and difficult places, remind us that you have not abandoned us. When we wonder, “Is the Lord among us or not?” open our eyes to the ways your presence surrounds us, even when we cannot see it. Give us what we need for the journey, sustain us when we are weary, and help us trust that your living water flows even in places we thought were barren. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**FIRST READING**      **Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16**  
<sup>1</sup>Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
<sup>2</sup>*I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times—*  
<sup>3</sup>that which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us, we will not hide from their children.  
<sup>4</sup>*We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works God has done.*  
<sup>12</sup>God worked marvels in the sight of their ancestors, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan,  
<sup>13</sup>*splitting open the sea and letting them pass through; making the waters stand up like walls;*  
<sup>14</sup>leading them with a cloud by day, and all the night with a glow of fire;  
<sup>15</sup>*splitting the rocks in the wilderness and giving them drink as from the deep;*  
<sup>16</sup>bringing streams out of a rock, making them flow down like a river.  
L) Word of God, Word of Life. *All) Thanks be to God.*

**SECOND READING**      **Philippians 2:1-7**  
<sup>1</sup>If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection 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 empty 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 existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human.  
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.

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.

**THIRD READING**      **Exodus 17:1-7**  
<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 for 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?”  
L) Word of God, word of life.      *All) Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

“Is the Lord Among Us or Not?””

Vicar Kendra Kappler

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **“When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)”**      **ELW #785**  

1

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*  
It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul,) it is well, it is well with my soul.

2

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

3

He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

4

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul. *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) *Receive our Prayer*

