CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Patrick Cox

Worship for Sunday, September 20, 2026
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as "laborers for his vineyard" (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear "the burden of the day and the scorching heat" on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that "he may be found" (Is. 55:6), "have compassion" and "abundantly pardon" (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, "whether by life or by death" (Phil. 1:20), by "fruitful labor" (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are "worthy of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27).

+ Please silence your cell phone.
+ Please fill out the red 'Record of Fellowship' book in your pew.

✢ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING 2 ✢

CHOIR PRELUDE: **"The Time for Turning"** *(Craig Courtney)*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" LSB 782**

✢ HOLY BAPTISM ✢

THE HOLY BAPTISM OF EDMUND THOMAS MCGRAW LSB 268

✢ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✢

INTROIT (see insert)
KYRIE LSB 168
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS LSB 170
SALUTATION LSB 172
COLLECT OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING: **Isaiah 55:6-9**
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: **Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30**
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA and VERSE LSB 173

HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 20:1-16**
Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Holy Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go"** **LSB 854**

SERMON: **"At the End of the Day"** *from Matthew 20:11-16*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
Pastor: …Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERING
ORGAN VOLUNTARY: **"Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care"** *(James Biery)*

OFFERTORY LSB 176

✢ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✢

PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE LSB 177
SANCTUS and PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING LSB 178
LORD'S PRAYER LSB 179
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD
PAX DOMINI and AGNUS DEI LSB 180

DISTRIBUTION LSB 181
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS
"Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care" **LSB 757**
"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face" **LSB 631**

NUNC DIMITTIS LSB 182
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT LSB 183
BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: **"The Lord is My Light"** **LSB 723**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: **"Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings"** *(Wilbur Held)*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

HOLY COMMUNION

In the Sacrament of Holy Communion our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us with His true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins. He invites to His table baptized Christians who trust His words, repent of all their sin, and forgive one another as He forgives us.

In 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, St. Paul teaches us that Holy Communion is also a public profession that unity of doctrine exists amongst those who commune at the same altar. Therefore, we ask any who are not yet instructed in the doctrine of our church or who hold membership/commune at a non-LCMS church body to abstain from receiving the Sacrament here today. If it is your desire to receive communion with us at this altar, please speak with Pastor Cox. It would be his joy to instruct you toward confirmation. *For further study see Matthew 5:23ff, 10:32ff, 18:15-35, 26:26-29; Acts 2:38, 42; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:17-34.*

All who are not receiving the Sacrament today are welcome to come to the communion rail to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest when you come to the rail.

- ✠ **The individual cups are offered first, followed by the chalice.**
- ✠ **The cups in the center of the trays include one drop of wine.**
- ✠ **Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten-free wafer.**

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Patrick Cox, (541) 988-5430
Rev. Clifford Herd and Rev. Barry Hildebrandt, Pastors Emeriti
3204 Hixson Pike – Chattanooga, TN 37415
Church Office (423) 877-7447
Email: church@cocluth.com | Website: cocluth.com | Facebook.com/cocluth

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP SERVICE

READERS: (Sat) Pastor Cox| (Sun) Chris Barker
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Holloway, Emily Tripp
ELDERS: Scott Brewster, Carl Hunt, Jon Sonntag
USHERS: (Sat) Scott Brewster
(Sun) Dave Murray, Caleb Clemmons, Cody Carpenter, Dick Sonntag
ORGANIST: Dr. Sarah Harr DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS: Judy Zehnder
PRAISE TEAM: Nyssa Hunt and Sylvia Hildebrandt
A/V TEAM: Scott Brewster, Nyssa Hunt, Tim Riethmeier,
Mike & Monica Witherby, Bonnie Wright-Woodward