

September 27, 2026
18th Sunday after Pentecost



Leading Worship Today:

Preacher: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Barb Janski

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns.

Prayground: We have a Kids Corner for young kids on the front left side (by the stained glass windows). Kids and their adults are more than welcome to sit in that area during the service where there are coloring pages and puzzle books to engage young minds and hands in worship.

PRELUDE

As The Deer

Martin Nystrom arr. Ken Medema

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal. - John F. Kennedy

*Almighty God, you built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone. Join us together by their teaching, so that we may be a holy temple in whom your Spirit dwells; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- Gelasian Liturgy (8th century)*

GATHERING

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 81

Rejoice out loud to God, our strength!

Shout for joy to Jacob's God!

Take up a song and strike the drum!

Sweet lyre along with harp!

Come, let us worship God in joy and praise!

***OPENING SONGS**

#175 Seek Ye First

#192 Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The psalmist pleads, "Be mindful of your mercy, O God, and of your steadfast love." Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess the wrong we have done and the good we have left undone.

Holy God, whose covenant faithfulness is sure from age to age, we confess that too often we have praised your name with our lips, but abandoned your presence in our lives. We have spoken the good news of Jesus and yet refused to live his gospel way day to day. Forgive the failures of our lives and the faithlessness of our actions. Embolden us by your Holy Spirit to

live in love as Christ has loved us, committing the whole of our lives as disciples of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters your sins are forgiven and you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends remember that we are loved by God, who is merciful, and that in Jesus, God's mercy is made known. Therefore, in the name of Christ Jesus I declare to you, we are forgiven and set free.

Alleluia, Amen!

***RESPONSE**

#447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Banish all distractions from our minds and hearts, O God, that we might be present to the reading and preaching of your word and attuned to the leading of your Spirit. All in Christ's name, Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

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.² 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?"³ 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?"⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me."⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Verse 1

**O soul my soul are you weary and troubled
No night so dark that our eyes cannot see
There's light so bright as we look to our Saviour
Life more abundant and free
Life more abundant and free**

Chorus

(For we) Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Verse 2

God our God You are with us in darkness
Your Word Your light is leading us on
Our hearts can hear You Heavenly Father
Calling us all to Your Son
Calling us all to Your Son

Chorus

THIRD READING

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things."²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'"²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet."²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you."³² 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 after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Pastor Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Bass Clef Singers

arr. Trenney
Ralph Johansen, piano



*"Let us present ourselves to God
as those who have been delivered from death to life."
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*

***PRAISE REFRAIN**

#710 We Lift Our Voices

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from The Confession of Belhar

We believe

- **that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;**
- **that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;**
- **that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world;**
- **that the credibility of this message is seriously affected and its beneficial work obstructed when it is proclaimed in a land which professes to be Christian, but in which the enforced separation of people on a racial basis promotes and perpetuates alienation, hatred and enmity;**
- **that any teaching which attempts to legitimate such forced separation by appeal to the gospel, and is not prepared to venture on the road of obedience and reconciliation, but rather, out of prejudice, fear, selfishness and unbelief, denies in advance the reconciling power of the gospel, must be considered ideology and false doctrine.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all mercies, we give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and all living things.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; above all for your boundless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

We pray especially for all the joys and thanksgivings that abound in our lives and the lives of those near to us...

Holy One, who took on human nature, we pray for people everywhere.

For those who are hungry, we pray for nourishment...

For those who are fleeing, we pray for safety...

For those who are ill, we pray for your healing...

For those who are grieving, we pray for your peace...

For those who are suffering, we pray for your presence...

Holy Three in One, who patterns community, we pray for communities everywhere.

For those who are divided, we pray for unity...

For those who are isolated, we pray for connection...

For those who are afraid, we pray for courage...

For those who are frustrated, we pray for new hope...

We pray especially for those in our own community who suffer this day...

Hear our prayers, God of grace, and help us to fulfill them, working according to your purpose, in peace, justice, and mercy, in all we do; through Jesus Christ the Lord, who taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING SONG

#700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Lord, Listen to Your Children Prayin'

Ken Medema

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from Psalm 81 (CEB).

All other liturgy is taken/adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or written in house.

#175 Seek Ye First Text Stanza1 Karen Laffery, 1971 ;stanzas 2-3 anon Music Karen Laffery, 1971 ©1972 Universal Music-Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music (admin. Universal Music-Brentwood Benson Publishing)

#700 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use MeText: African American Spiritual Music African American Spiritual; arr Wendell P. Whalum, 1984 ©Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

#447 We Are Forgiven Text: Trad. Liturgical text Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1995 copyright Hal Hopson 1995

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus CCLI Song # 7067212 Aaron Shust | Paul Baloche © 2016 Bridge Building Music, Inc.; CP Shust Tunes; Integrity Worship Music; Leadworship Songs

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light by Kathleen Thomerson Arr. Tom Trenney "Housoton" ©1970, 1975 and this arr. © 2017 by CelebrationPavane Publishing licensed for this edition.

#710 We Lift Our Voices Text and Music: Dwight Liles, 1984 Copyright 1984 Word Music, LLC

#192 Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining Text and Music: Graham Kendrick, 1987 ©1987 Make Way Music (admin. Music Services)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonfire & Hot Dog Roast: Join us for an evening of fellowship, a warm fire, and a good old-fashioned hot dog roast! Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Date: October 3rd

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Prospective Members Lunch: Are you interested in becoming a member of BPC or learning more about the church? Join us from **11:30am-1pm on Sunday Oct. 4th** for lunch and a time to get to know the church and one another. Lunch is free and attendance is not a formal commitment to become a member. If you are planning to come please let Pastor Brian know by Oct. 1st.

Immigration Aid Collection: Thank you for your on-going support for our immigrant neighbors. Now, we have an opportunity to support our neighbors who are able to return to work, but are in need of assistance with food. We are looking for **donations of vegetable / cooking oil and Maseca corn flour**. Donations can be dropped off in the bin outside Fellowship Hall. Thank you for being a blessing to so many in our community!

Today September 27	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC: Immersive Weekend with God: Pastor Brian
Tuesday September 29	9:00am: Crafty Ladies 9:00am: Guy's Breakfast
Wednesday September 30	7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal
Thursday October 1	7:30am: People of Faith 10:00am: Women of Faith 5:30pm: Racial Justice Reading Group
Saturday October 3	5:00pm: Fire & Hot Dog Roast
Sunday October 4	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC: BPC Budget 11:30am: Prospective Member's Lunch

How Can We Pray for You?

Scan the QR code to submit prayer requests:



Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.

Scan the QR code to submit prayer requests.

BPC Prayer List:

- Rich Dahl
- Christy Wood
- Dennis Stanley, fighting cancer
- Anne Marie Wille, Bonnie Morek's daughter
- Lois Lindstrom
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins
- Cassie & Bryce Taylor, grandson of Lanny and Shirley Taylor
- Louise Markve
- Don Eddy
- Joseph Wille, Bonnie Morek's grandson
- Windi Willette
- Tony
- Allen, father of Jennifer Glauvitz
- The Grady Family (friends of Theresa) upon the loss of their father
- Dennis, Kate, Alicia, & Dan Vanderheiden (Del's family)
- Gloria & Daniel Elliott (Bonnie Moreks brother brother and his wife)
- Nancy Grittmann
- Sandy Anderson and family following Steve Anderson's death
- Marcy, Peggy Hunter's sister-in-law
- James Doth
- Jessica Lundgren

175

Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

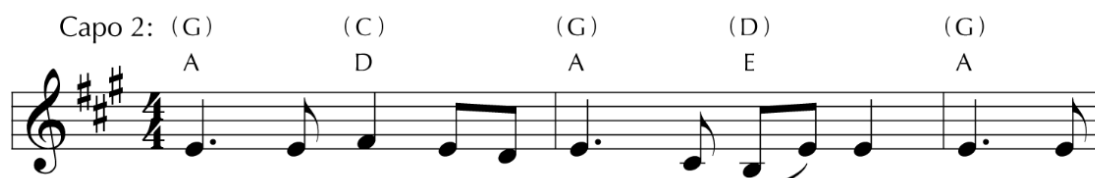
1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,
 seek, and you shall find;
 but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

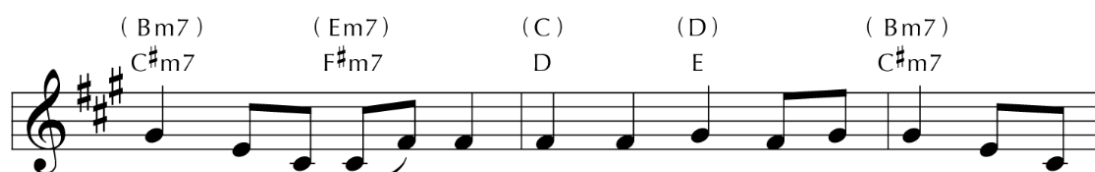
192 Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining Shine, Jesus, Shine



1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the
2 Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the
3 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our



midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the
shad - ows in - to your ra - diance; by the blood I may
fac - es dis - play your like - ness; ev - er chang - ing from



World, shine up - on us; set us free by the truth you now
en - ter your bright-ness. Search me; try me; con - sume all my
glo - ry to glo - ry, mir - rored here may our lives tell your



bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.
dark - ness. Shine on me; shine on me.
sto - ry. Shine on me; shine on me.



Shine, Je - sus, shine; fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

While the reference to Jesus as the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) can be understood generally, this hymn is perhaps best understood as a response to the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8/Mark 9:2-8/Luke 9:28-36). This is the most popular of the author/composer's many songs.

FORGIVENESS

447

We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to

G Am7 Dsus D G Am

God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.

D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G

We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
10.8.10.8