

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 2026
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

a little about the Scripture readings today
and the saints of the Church we remember
this week...

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING **Jonah 3:10—4:11**
After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

SECOND READING **Philippians 1:21-30**
Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

GOSPEL **Matthew 20:1-16**
Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF)
September 20
A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.
Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
September 21
Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.



Festive Liturgy
for
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

Mt. Lebanon United Lutheran Church

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)

Setting 3

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude Adagio for Strings Samuel barber arr. William Strickland

The Sanctus Bells proclaim the advent of worship and Christ’s presence with us. Please rise as the bells are rung.

Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness [the faithful kneel or sit]

Hymn Take My Life, That I May Be ELW 685

Greeting The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

Prayer of the Day Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in Bible reading, preaching, and song.

Children’s Message [10:00]

First Reading Jonah 3:10—4:11

Psalm: 145:1-8 (sung responsively by whole verse)

Second Reading Philippians 1:21-30

Holy Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

Spoken response at the announcement of the Gospel: Glory to you, O Lord. After the reading of the Gospel: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon Pastor Heagy

Hymn of the Day There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy ELW 588

Apostles’ Creed ELW page 105

Prayers of the Faithful [Response to each petition: Your mercy is great.]

Exchange of Peace

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering
Anthem He Comes to Us as One Unknown by John Ferguson

Offering Response [the faithful stand] ELW 465 [refrain, stanza 1, refrain]

Offertory Prayer
God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving
Dialogue
The Lord be with you. / And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. / We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. / It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface Insert
Sanctus ELW page 144

Verba [the faithful kneel]
Lord’s Prayer ELW page 145

Invitation to the Table
Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
*Gluten free wafers available

Agnus Dei [the faithful stand] ELW page 146

Distribution
ELW 659 is sung during distribution of the Eucharist.
Post Communion Prayer

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing
Hymn Voices Raised to You ELW 845

Dismissal
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude Festive Trumpet Tune David German

Soli Deo Gloria