The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 20, 2026
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
9:00 a.m.



The Order of Service: Rite 1 with Communion ELH page 41

1. Welcome

2. Opening Prayer

Pastor O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

3. Opening Hymn #10 "Come Holy Ghost, Creator Blest"

1 Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
Vouchsafe within our souls to rest;
Come with Thy grace and heav'nly aid
And fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

2 To Thee the Comforter, we cry,
To Thee, the Gift of God most high;
The Fount of life, the Fire of love,
The soul's Anointing from above.

3 The sev'nfold gifts of grace are Thine,
O Finger of the Hand Divine;
True Promise of the Father Thou,
Who dost the tongue with speech endow.

4 Thy light to ev'ry thought impart,
And shed Thy love in ev'ry heart;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

5 Drive far away our wily foe,
And Thine abiding peace bestow;
If Thou be our protecting Guide,
No evil can our steps betide.

6 Make Thou to us the Father known;
Teach us th'eternal Son to own,
And Thee, whose name we ever bless,
Of both the Spirit, to confess.

7 Praise we the Father and Son,
And Holy Spirit, Thee in One,
And may the Son on us bestow
The gifts that from the Spirit flow.

4. Confession of Sins

Pastor Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins:
Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit, increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

5. The Kyrie Eleison

♫ **Congregation** O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us. O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us. O God, the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us.

6. The Absolution

Pastor Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

7. The Gloria in Excelsis Deo *(Glory to God in the highest) page 44*

Pastor Glory be to God in the highest

♫ **Congregation** And on earth peace, good will toward men. All glory be to God on high Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended; God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall dwell on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

8. The Salutation

Pastor The Lord be with you.

♫ **Congregation** And with your spirit.

9. The Collect

Pastor Let us pray: O God, our Refuge and Strength, the Author of all godliness: Be ready, we beseech You, to hear the devout prayers of Your Church; and grant that those things which we ask in true faith, we may obtain by Your boundless mercy: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

♫ **Congregation** Amen.

10. The Lesson – Genesis 50:15-21

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph
will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” 16 So they sent a message to
Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died: 17 ‘Say to Joseph, “Please
forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ And
now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph
wept when they spoke to him. 18 His brothers also came and fell down before him and said,
“Behold, we are your servants.” 19 But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the
place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring
it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will
provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

11. Psalm 103:1-13 *(read responsively by whole verse)*

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,
3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.
7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love
toward those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those
who fear him.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is
now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

12. The Epistle – Romans 14:5-9

5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days
alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The one who observes the day,
observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he
gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives
thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we
live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or
whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he
might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

13. Gradual Hymn #583 “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

God's Word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations.

14. The Holy Gospel – Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and
I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven
times, but seventy-seven times. 23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to
a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was
brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his

master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. [26] So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' [27] And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. [28] But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' [29] So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' [30] He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. [31] When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. [32] Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. [33] And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' [34] And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. [35] So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Pastor This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

♫ **Congregation** God be praised for His glad tidings.

15. The Nicene Creed

Congregation I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come.

♫ **Congregation** Amen.

16. Chief Hymn #239 "I Lay My Sins On Jesus" (Tune: Aurelia, ELH #486)

1 I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains
White in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

2 I lay my wants on Jesus,
All fulness dwells in Him;
He healeth my diseases,
He doth my soul redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases,
He all my sorrows shares.

3 I rest my soul on Jesus,
This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces,
I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus,
"God with us," Christ the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured.

4 I long to be like Jesus,
Meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus,
The Father's holy Child.
I long to be with Jesus
Amid the heav'nly throng
To sing with saints His praises,
To learn the angels' song.

17. Sermon "Stop Counting. Forgive From The Heart" Matthew 18:21-22,35

18. The Prayers and The Apostolic Benediction

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

19. The Offering

The Service Of Holy Communion

Heritage Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of the ELS and WELS partake of the Lord's Supper today. Visitors, please speak with Pastor Anderson about receiving the Sacrament in the future.

20. The Preface (Introduction to the Holy Communion)

Pastor The Lord be with you.

♫**Congregation** And with your spirit.

Pastor Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.

♫ **Congregation** We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

♫ **Congregation** It is good and right so to do.

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

21. The Sanctus (Latin, "Holy")

♫ **Congregation** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

22. The Lord's Prayer *(sung by all)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

23. The Words of Institution

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

24. The Agnus Dei (Latin, "Lamb of God")

♫ **Congregation** O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

25. The Distribution

26. Distribution Hymns

#252 “I Walk In Danger All The Way”

1 I walk in danger all the way;
The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey,
Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares
May seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray;
I walk in danger all the way.

2 I pass through trials all the way,
With sin and ills contending;
In patience I must bear each day
The cross of God's own sending.
Oft in adversity
I know not where to flee,
When storms of woe my soul dismay;
I pass through trials all the way.

3 Death doth pursue me all the way;
Nowhere I rest securely.
He comes by night, he comes by day,
And takes his prey most surely.
A failing breath, and I
In death's strong grasp may lie
To face eternity for aye.
Death doth pursue me all the way.

4 I walk with angels all the way;
They shield me and befriend me.
All Satan's pow'r is held at bay
When heav'nly hosts attend me.
They are my sure defense,
All fear and sorrow, hence!
Unharmed by foes, do what they may,
I walk with angels all the way.

5 I walk with Jesus all the way;
His guidance never fails me.
Within His wounds I find a stay
When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by His footsteps led,
My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may,
I walk with Jesus all the way.

6 My walk is heav'nward all the way;
Await my soul, the morrow,
When thou shalt find release for aye
From all thy sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, begone!
To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay;
My walk is heav'nward all the way.

#261 “Who Trusts In God, A Strong Abode”

1 Who trusts in God a strong abode
In heav'n and earth possesses;
Who looks in love to Christ above,
No fear his heart oppresses.
In Thee alone, dear Lord, we own
Sweet hope and consolation,
Our Shield from foes, our Balm for woes,
Our great and sure Salvation.

2 Though Satan's wrath beset our path
And worldly scorn assail us,
While Thou art near, we will not fear;
Thy strength shall never fail us.
Thy rod and staff shall keep us safe
And guide our steps forever;
Nor shades of death nor hell beneath
Our souls from Thee shall sever.

3 In all the strife of mortal life
Our feet shall stand securely;
Temptation's hour shall lose its pow'r,
For Thou shalt guard us surely.
O God, renew with heav'nly dew
Our body, soul, and spirit
Until we stand at Thy right hand
Through Jesus' saving merit.

#266 “O Bread Of Life From Heaven”

1 O Bread of life from heaven,
To weary pilgrims given,
O manna from above:
The souls that hunger feed Thou,
The hearts that seek Thee lead Thou,
With Thy most sweet and tender love.

2 O Fount of grace redeeming,
O River ever streaming
From Jesus' holy side:
Come Thou, Thyself bestowing
On thirsting souls, and flowing
Till all their wants are satisfied.

3 Jesus, this feast receiving,
Thy Word of truth believing,
We Thee unseen adore:
Grant, when our race is ended,
That we, to heav'n ascended,
May see Thy glory ever more.

#278 “O Jesus, King, Most Wonderful”

1 O Jesus, King most wonderful,
Thou Conqueror renowned,
Thou Sweetness most ineffable,
In whom all joys are found!

2 When once Thou visitest the heart,
The truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanities depart,
Then kindles love divine.

3 O Jesus, Light of all below,
Thou Fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know,
All that we can desire.

4 May ev'ry heart confess Thy name
And ever Thee adore
And, seeking Thee, itself inflame
To seek Thee more and more!

5 Thee may our tongues forever bless,
Thee may we love alone,
And ever in our lives express
The image of Thine own!

27. The Collect

Pastor We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

♫ **Congregation** Amen.

28. The Benediction

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

♫ **Congregation** Amen, Amen, Amen.

29. Closing Hymn #429 "Chief Of Sinners Though I Be"

1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high,
Lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His and He is mine.

2 O the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity.
Love that found me--wondrous thought!--
Found me when I sought Him not.

3 Jesus only can impart
Balm to heal the smitten heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n;
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is All in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
Safe with Him from earthly strife,
He sustains the hidden life.

5 O my Savior, help afford
By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

30. The Closing Prayer

Pastor O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Announcements

Sunday School & Bible Class - begins today after the service and fellowship time.

Catechism Class – Catechism class meets on Wednesdays at 4:15 pm.

Companions in Prayer Orientation - An orientation to the Companions in Prayer (CIP) program is being scheduled for the end of September or early October. We hope you will consider becoming a Companion. The purpose of CIP is a group of confirmed members of Heritage Lutheran Church that have gone through specific orientation to the concepts of intercessory prayer as well as the importance of the ethics and confidentiality involved in being a part of Companions in Prayer.

The Companions in Prayer group has the following goals:
Establish a group of individuals who will actively participate in intercessory prayer for individuals/groups of the congregation as well as family and friends of the congregation members.
Foster an active and effective prayer life of Heritage members through on-going communication encouraging individuals and families to expand their prayer life.

Dates being considered for orientation are 9/27, 10/4, or 10/11. It will be immediately following Bible Study/Sunday School and will be about an hour long. You may sign up on the bulletin board or electronically via the Google form that was sent to the congregation. The final date will be determined based on the largest number of people who are available. If you have further questions, please contact Alice Schmidt or the office.

Worship Times – Sundays at 9:00 a.m. & Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Special Parking Lot Fundraiser – The parking lot looks great after the mill and overlay project. The cost was $65,000 for a mill and overlay of the entire lot. If you would like to contribute to this project, please specify your donation is for the parking lot project.

Women's Bible Study – Women's Bible class meets on Tuesdays at 6:30. We are studying "The Theology of the Cross." Please talk to Sarah Smith if you have questions.

Men's Bible Study – Men's Bible study meets on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. and they are studying the 1st Epistle of John.

Heritage Choir meets on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:45. Please come and sing with us! We are looking at an additional rehearsal time for those that are interested in singing in the choir but cannot make it to the Wednesday evening rehearsal.
Sunday mornings?
A different weeknight?
During the day?
Please contact Julie Wright if you have questions, suggestions, and/or would like more details.

The Lutheran Sentinel & Meditations – The Lutheran Sentinel and Meditations are available on the welcome stand.

Fellowship - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.

Teacher's Aide Position - Heritage Lutheran School is hiring for a part-time teacher's aide position. This position could be shared by 2 people. Hours would be 11:15 am - 4:30 or 5 pm Monday - Friday. We are looking to hire one or two people for this position. Please reach out to the Heritage office if interested - office@heritagelutheran.org or 952-431-6225.

Bethany Auxiliary – Bethany Auxiliary Day is coming up on Monday, September 28th from 9 am to 3 pm at Bethany Lutheran College.

Help Needed – Please see the volunteer board for opportunities to help around the church grounds. There are indoor and outdoor projects. Please take a look and see if there are any projects that you would like to help with.

New Carpet – New carpet will be installed in the narthex sometime in November. This will be paid for by TLC and memorial money.

Budget Update - We have updated the member-giving scorecard through the end of August. If you have any questions, please speak with church treasurer Phil Holz or church president Dave Paulsen.

Member Giving Scorecard	YTD Actual	YTD Target	Variance	Annual Target
Member General Fund Giving	$61,809	$57,266	**$4,543**	$380,000
School Deficit Reduction Giving Target	$1,652	5,833	**($4,181)**	$35,000
Parking Lot Project	$15,380	$65,000	**($49,620)**	$65,000
Total Member Giving	**$78,841**	**$128,099**	**($49,258)**	**$480,000**

Self-Examination for Communion
Christian Questions and Answers, ELH pp 38,39

Communion Prayers
Before
We do not presume to come to Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under Your table. But You are the Lord who desires always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Body of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His Blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

After
Lord Jesus Christ, even as You rose triumphant from the grave, I beseech You to grant me grace to rise from the bondage of sin, to walk in the newness of life, that when You appear as my Judge and Redeemer, I shall greet You in peace and joy, and may throughout eternity enjoy the bliss of Your unveiled Presence. Amen

† †

The Exhortation
Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ; “This is My body, which is given for you; this is My blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins” you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.
From Christ’s words “for the remission of sins” you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all your sins.
And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says “Take, eat; drink of it all of you,” and “this do in remembrance of Me.”
If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ’s body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.
You should also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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