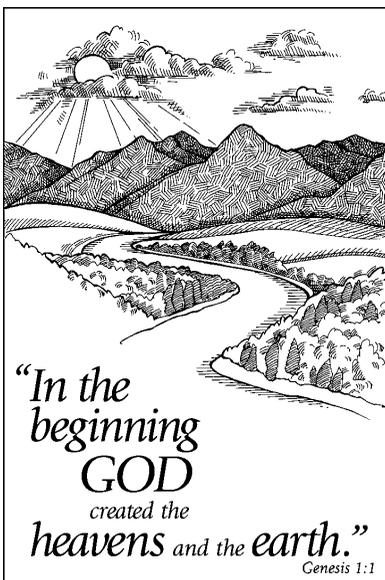


THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2017

Worship Focus

“I believe... in God, the Creator”



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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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OPENING HYMN

261 – We Sing the Almighty Power of God



1 We sing th' al - might - y pow'r of God, Who
2 We sing the wis - dom that or - dained The
3 We sing the good - ness of the Lord, Who
4 Lord, how your won - ders are dis - played Each
5 There's not a plant or flow'r be - low But



made the moun - tains rise, Who spread the flow - ing
sun to rule the day; The moon shines, too, at
fills the earth with food, Who formed the crea - tures
time we turn our eyes To view the ground on
makes your glo - ries known, And clouds a - rise and



seas a - broad And built the loft - y skies.
his com - mand, And all the stars o - bey,
by a word And then pro - nounced them good,
which we tread Or gaze up - on the skies,
tem - pests blow By or - der from your throne.

6 On you each moment we depend;
If you withdraw, we die.
Oh, may we never God offend,
Who is forever nigh!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: ICH SINGE DIR (CM) *Harmonischer Lieder-Schatz*, Frankfurt, 1738, alt.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

PRAAYER AND PRAISE

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**All glory be to God on high, Who has our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh; The strife at last is ended.
The Father's love, the Savior's birth, Bring peace, good will, to all the earth;
Oh, thank him for his goodness!**

**We praise, we worship you, we trust; We give you thanks forever,
O Father, that your rule is just And wise and changes never.
In boundless pow'r, with mighty reign, Done is whatever you ordain;
Your rule brings countless blessings! (263:1,2)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Genesis 1:1-28

God created the world and all that is in it in six days.

GENESIS 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning--the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the expanse "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning--the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so.

¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning--the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights--the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning--the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning--the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

CHERUB CHOIR

God Made It So

*Once the world was dark as night,
So our God said, "Let there be light!"
Sunlight set the heavens aglow!
Alleluia! God made it so!
Alleluia! God made it so!*

*God then made the land and the sea,
Rocks, and mountains, meadows and trees,
Grass and flowers and rivers that flow!
Alleluia! God made it so!
Alleluia! God made it so!*

*Next God made all creatures appear:
Dogs and cats and cattle and deer,
Birds above and fishes below.
Alleluia! God made it so!
Alleluia! God made it so!*

*God loves! God cares!
Earth now sings in thankful prayer.
Sun, moon, stars, sky,
Sing to God on high.*

*Then God made us: woman and man!
Loving us is all in God's plan.
God is always helping us grow.
Alleluia! God made it so!
Alleluia! God made it so!*

We thank you, God, for loving us so!

SECOND LESSON Romans 1:18-25

Fallen mankind does not want to give God the credit he deserves as Creator of all things.

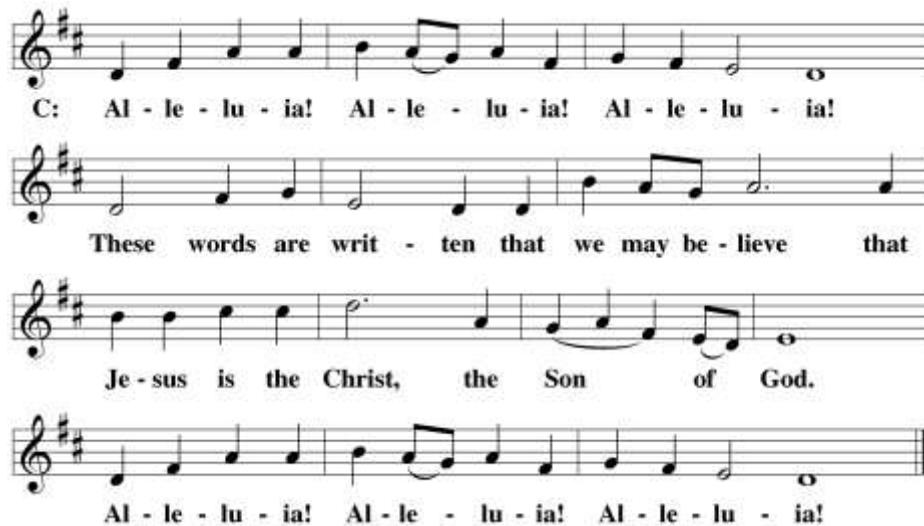
ROMANS 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL Matthew 19:1-6

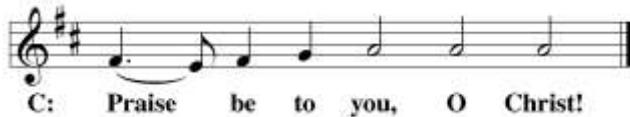
God made us male and female when he created the world and instituted marriage.

MATTHEW 19:1 When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ²Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

⁴ “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’ ? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HYMN OF THE DAY

237 – Lord of Lords, the Sparkling Heavens



1 Lord of lords, the spar - kling heav - ens Show the great - ness
 2 Lord of light, your gift of beau - ty Fills our plan - et
 3 Lord of love, we bow be - fore you, Hum - bled by your
 4 Lord of na - tions, by your Spir - it Cause our fear and



of your hand, Bril - liant gal - ax - ies un - fold - ing,
 here be - low. Crys - tal snow and sil - ver moon - light,
 con - stant grace. Word in - car - nate, sent from heav - en,
 greed to cease; Rest - less hearts and lives re - fash - ion



Dis - tant suns your wis - dom planned, Morn - ing stars in
 For - est green with life a - glow, Sap - phire o - cean,
 On the cross you took our place, By your death and
 By the en - trance of your peace. May we now with



con - cert sing - ing— Praise the one whose pow'r we
 flam - ing sun - set Your cre - a - tive joy pro -
 res - ur - rec - tion We shall live through end - less
 firm com - mit - ment Fol - low in o - be - dience



see: Lord of might and maj - es - ty,
 claim! Lord of all, we praise your name!
 days! Lord of life, we sing your praise.
 true: Lord of lords, we wor - ship you!

Text: Margaret Stinton, b. 1924. © 1982 Margaret Stinton. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: CWM RHONDDA (87 87 877) John Hughes, 1873–1932.

SERMON

Hebrews 11:3

Where Did All This Come From?

1. From God
2. From nothing

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

For all who serve in the Lord's Kingdom, that God would keep His own ever mindful that it is only by grace we are included in His Kingdom and privileged to serve in it, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the nurturing of children, that God would allow all to see children as blessings from Him, that they might be brought to the waters of Holy Baptism, loved, well cared for and nourished daily with God's Word, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For faithful parents, that God would grant them patience and wisdom and give them the fortitude to train up their children in the way they should go, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For good and faithful Sunday schools, that God would bless churches with faithful pastors and teachers to engage adults and children alike in the study of God's Word, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are sick, marginalized, depressed, shut-in or in hospice care, [*especially _____,*] that God would guard and keep their faith strong, knowing with certainty that to live is Christ and to die is gain, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have been devastated by Hurricane Maria and the earthquake in Mexico and for those still in danger; for those who have lost loved ones, home or employment; for those who will respond in the areas of devastation and for those who continue to respond to those impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma; for all hearts that are weary and discouraged, that they may find good courage and hope in what never passes away, the love we have been given in Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who rejoice with us but upon another shore and in a brighter light, that multitude that no man can number, let us give thanks and praise, asking our portion with the saints in light, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

The
LORD'S
Prayer

SERMON HYMN

481 – O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made

1 O God, your hand the heav - ens made And
 2 To us are giv - en gifts di - vine; All
 3 De - liv - er us from self - ish aims; True

all that they con - tain; The world ap - peared at
 tal - ents you have sent, In - spire us now to
 stew - ards we would be, En - dow us with a

your com - mand, And in it now you reign,
 use them well Your king - dom to ex - tend,
 deep de - sire To live un - self - ish - ly.

The rest - less sea, the land, the sky Your
 We hold each gift a trust from you Nor
 A full ac - count - ing we must give And

hand - i - work de - clare; The touch of your cre -
 claim it as our own; We grate - ful - ly ac -
 see you face to face; Let us ap - proach your

a - tive pow'r Is pres - ent ev - 'ry - where,
 knowl - edge, Lord, All things are yours a - lone,
 throne with joy, Sup - port - ed by your grace.

Text: Frank L. Cross, h. 1904, alt. © 1961, Renewed 1989 by The Hymn Society
 (admin. Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: KINGSFOLD (CM D) English folk tune, 19th century, adapt.

PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

256 – How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-c-la-ma-tion



Con-sid-er all the works thy hand hath made,
And hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!



I see the stars, I hear the might-y thun-der,
When I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur
That on the cross my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing
Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion



Thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played.
And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze,
He bled and died to take a-way my sin.
And there pro-claim: "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior-God, to thee, "How great thou



art! How great thou art!" Then sings my soul, my



Sav-ior-God to thee, "How great thou art! How great thou art!"

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Tune: HOW GREAT THOU ART (11 10 11 10 with Refrain) Swedish folk tune. © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust.

