



# ABOUT THE PROPERs

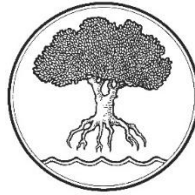
*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 22

October 5, 2025



“Wounds That Heal”

Increased Faith Increases Duty

As someone rises through the ranks at work, there are typically benefits: higher salary, more authority, better benefits. However, there is often a corresponding increase in responsibility: longer hours, more meetings, and raised expectations. So, if someone is offered a promotion, they might ask, *“Is this worth it?”* It is similar in God’s kingdom. As our faith grows, there are obvious benefits: the comfort of knowing you are a redeemed and loved child of God, the peace of knowing your eternity is secure. However, increased faith also increases duty. There are ever more opportunities for service. This week, Jesus has sharp words for those who want the benefits of being Christian but would shirk those responsibilities. However, to lead us to take up those responsibilities, our Savior doesn’t threaten or cajole. He helps us see that while increased faith increases duty, increased duty increases delight. The believer knows he serves the One who came to serve us first. Just as Christ’s service brought him great joy, so does our service to others.

### First Reading<sup>3</sup>

1 Chronicles 29:1-2, 10-18

Faithful servants do their duty with joy and gratitude. David rejoices before the assembly of the people that such gifts have been given and dedicated for the building of the Lord’s temple. At the same time, David rejoices that the Lord has given his people the opportunity to give these gifts. Everything comes from the Lord’s hand, and it is our duty to serve him and his kingdom.

### Second Reading<sup>3</sup>

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12

Paul commends the Thessalonians for their faithfulness to the Lord even in the midst of trial and persecution. Paul says this is evidence that God’s judgment is right. He had forgiven them and called them his own children. God’s grace meant glory for Christ in them and glory for them in Christ.

### Gospel<sup>3</sup>

Luke 17:1-10

Repentance and forgiveness mark the believer’s life of faith. Knowledge of one’s own forgiveness in Jesus leads to a forgiving heart and thanksgiving to the King of Grace. Jesus again uses the imagery of master and servants to illustrate the relationship between the Lord and believers. Service to the Lord must never lead to self-righteousness. Rather, we do our duty by abstaining from sin, giving forgiveness, and serving our neighbor.

### Psalm of the Day<sup>4</sup>

Psalm 62 A

“In God Alone My Soul Can Find Rest and Peace”

The Church sings Psalm 62 in services that emphasize the rest we find in Jesus, not in anything that we ourselves accomplish or endure. The psalm’s theme is the absolute trustworthiness of our God, which moves us to flee to him in faith and to count on him in crisis. Martin Luther said, “Psalm 62 is a teaching psalm. It instructs us about false trust in human beings and true trust in God. Human beings simply do not see that trust in powerful people is worthless, and they are surprised when everything around them collapses. In contrast, when I trust God, my soul is satisfied.”

## Gospel Acclamation

1 Chronicles 29:14

“Who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this?”

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Hymn of the Day

748 “Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly” (Henry Bateman, 1802-72)

## Church Year Season <sup>1</sup>

Season after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

## Colors & Symbolism

Green

Green is the color of life, refreshment, growth, and regeneration. Whereas the first half of the Church Year (the “Festival Half” or the “Half Year of Our Lord”) focused on the life of Christ during his earthly ministry, the emphasis for the second half (the “Non-Festival half” or the “Half Year of the Church”) shifts to the result of Christ’s work through the Word: the work of defining and creating faith, and inspiring its fruits. The theme of the Christian’s growth in faith (like healthy green plants) fills the season.

## Nain Paraments

Sundays after Pentecost

Superfrontal: When Isaiah was called to be a prophet of the LORD, two seraphs (a class of angels) appeared and called out to one another, “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Isaiah 6:3). The threefold repetition of the divine adjective emphasizes the infinite holiness of the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Some congregations count the Sundays in this season of the Church Year as the Sundays after the festival of the Holy Trinity, calling it the “Trinity season,” or the “Sundays after Trinity.” That is why most paraments for this season feature symbols of the Holy Trinity.

Lectern antependium: The equilateral triangle is one of the oldest emblems of the Holy Trinity. The three equal sides and angles represent the equality, unity, and co-eternal nature of the three persons of the Trinity. Though they are three distinct persons, they are of one essence as one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). The three interwoven circles represent the three members of the Trinity and emphasize their unity and eternal nature; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are without beginning or end.

Pulpit antependium: At each point of the triangle (the significance of the triangle is explained above) is a nimbus, Latin for *cloud*. The nimbus appears as a circle, or a halo. In Christian artwork, nimbi surround the head of the Father (when he is depicted as a human), Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit (when he is depicted as a dove) to signify their glory and holiness. In artistic depictions of believers (saints), nimbi are placed around their heads to show that they have been made holy by God’s grace in Christ and through faith. The three fish in between the nimbi and that meet in the middle of the triangle signify Christians who are united to the Triune God by faith. Fish have come to represent the followers of Jesus because believers have been brought into the ship of God’s church through the efforts of those who proclaim Gospel (cf. “fishers of men” in Matthew 4:19).

<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

<sup>2</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

<sup>3</sup> Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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