

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13th, 2026 - Divine Service 3 - LSB 184ff

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23-27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have "mercy on your fellow servant" and "forgive your brother from your heart" (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord's forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we "are the Lord's" (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will "stand before the judgment seat of God," we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also "will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand" (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends "to bring it about that many people should be kept alive" (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: "I will provide for you and your little ones" (Gen. 50:21).

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Announcements

Opening Hymn | 608 "Lord, to You I Make Confession"

Please stand.

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen. [Matt. 28:19b, 18-20]

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. [Heb. 10:22]

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8 32:5]

I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
and you forgive the iniquity of my sin.

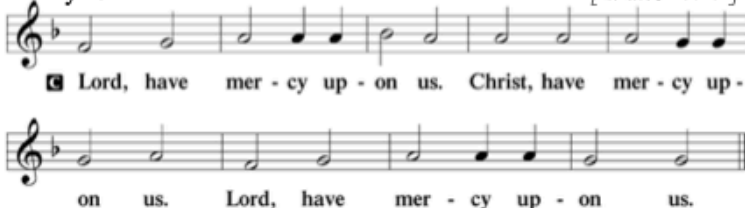
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** [John 20:19-23]

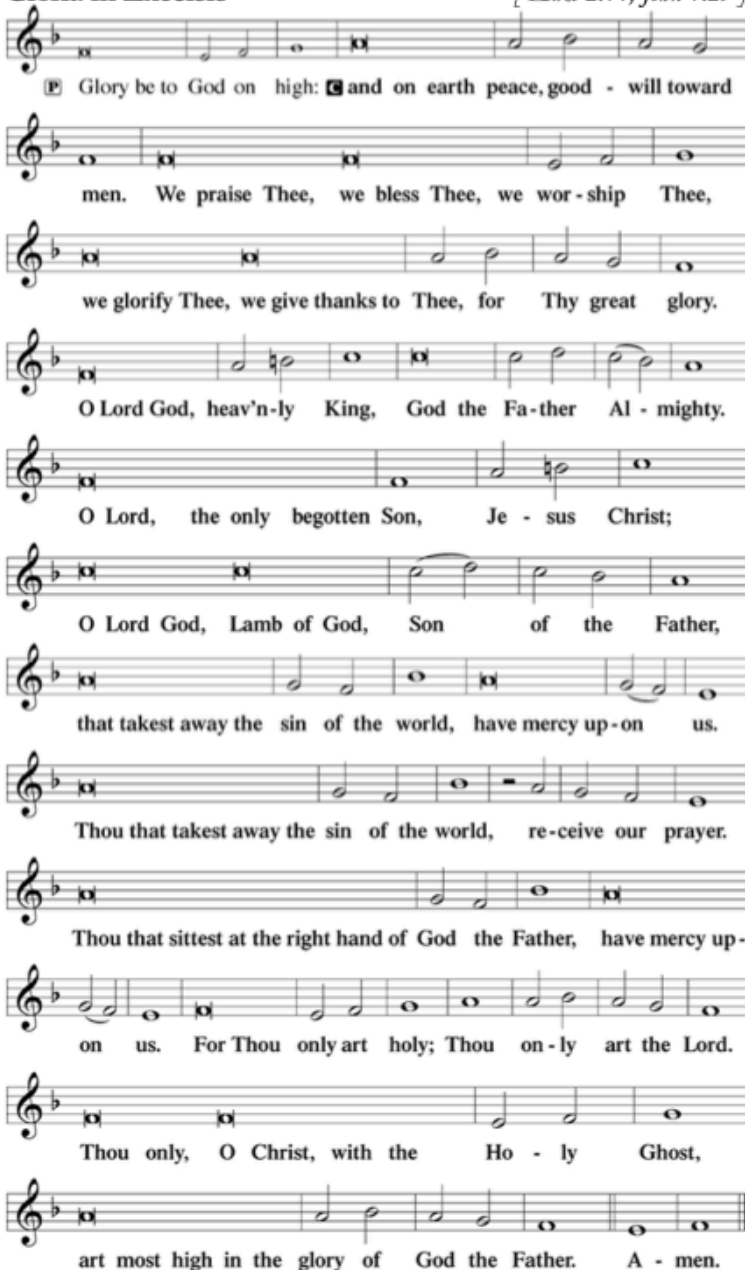
Kyrie

[Mark 10:47]



Gloria in Excelsis

[Luke 2:14; John 1:29]



Salutation and Collect of the Day

[2 Timothy 4:22]

The Lord be with You.

And with thy spirit.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Today's Readings from God's Word

The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As 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. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading is from Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The 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. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment of God;

¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

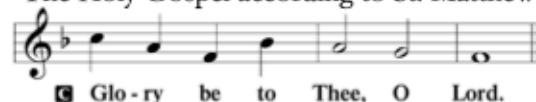
¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading singing the Alleluia verse.

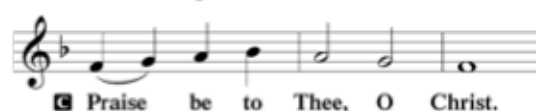


The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 18:21-35



²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will I sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." ²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a servant who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents 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. The servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to chastise him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'Wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother your heart."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Our Confession of Faith

Together we confess the Apostle's Creed. (Located Inside Back of Book)
Please be seated.

Children's Message

The children are invited to come forward for a message by Pastor Fitch.

Hymn of the Day | 843 "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

Sermon

Following the sermon, please stand.

Offertory

[Psalm 51:10-12]

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Please be seated.

Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay | Scan QR

Please stand.

Prayers of the Church

*After each petition, the pastor will say, "... Let us pray to the Lord;"
the congregation responds "Lord have mercy."*



Preface

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

[2 Timothy 4:22]

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

[Colossians 3:1]

[Psalm 136]

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

[Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

[Matthew 6:9-13]

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.

The Words of Our Lord

[Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 22:23-25]

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "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, and when He had given thanks, He 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 for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

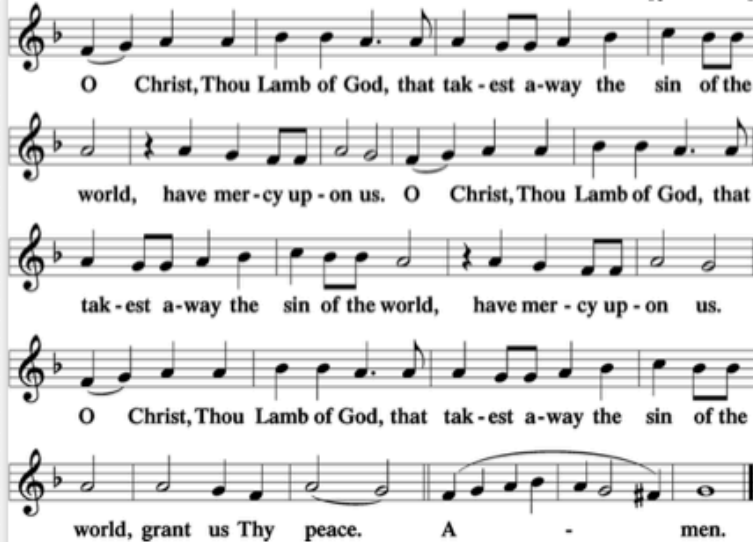
[John 20:19]

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

[John 1:29]



Please be seated and come forward at the direction of the ushers.

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. [Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29] Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith confessed at this altar, any who have not been instructed, in doubt, or holding a different confession from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. [1 Cor. 11:17-34]

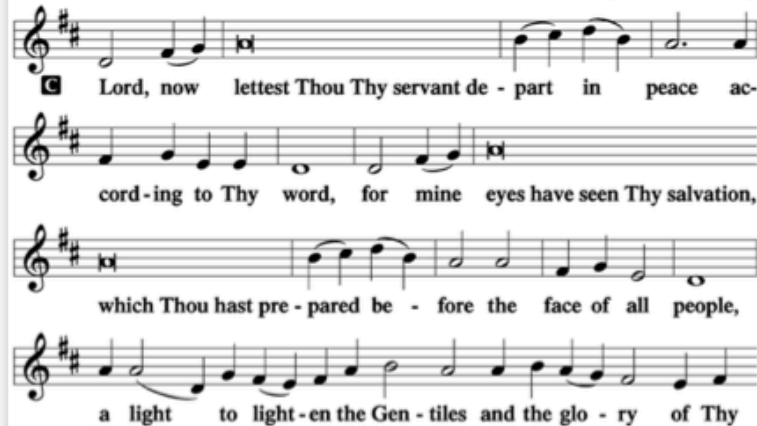
Dist. Hymn | 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

Dist. Hymn | 844 "Lord of All Nations, Grant Me"

When all have communed, please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

[Luke 2:29-32]



Thanksgiving

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and his mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same 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 God, now and forever.

Amen.

Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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.

Amen, amen, amen.

Please be seated.

Closing Hymn | 845 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.

