



Sunday September 13, 2026

16th Sunday After Pentecost

*As you enter, you are invited into a time
to silently reflect and center for worship*

***Services are live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook
each week. Welcome to all to view.***

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN **ACS 1097** *"Ten Thousand Reasons"*

GREETING

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

R/ And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, **you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

FIRST READING

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. L/Word of God, Word of Life **R/Thanks Be to God**

PSALM

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,**
and forget not all God's benefits
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication**
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
- ⁹ you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- ¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- ¹² **As far as the east is from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

Romans 14:1-12

- ¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
- ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who

eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ 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, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

L/Word of God, Word of Life **R/Thanks Be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW pg. 102



GOSPEL

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

Matthew 18:21-35

P/ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter. **R/Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

“P/ The Gospel of the Lord **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **ELW 452** *“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P/ Lord, in your mercy **R/ Hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN: **ELW 692** *“We Are an Offering”*

OFFERING PRAYER:

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our God. **It is right to offer our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE & HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

P/..... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



DISTRIBUTION HYMN **ACS 1049** *"Before the Waters Nourished Earth"*
 ELW 639 *"When We Are Living"*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN **ACS 1000** *"God's Work, Our Hands"*

DISMISSAL

P/ Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **R/Thanks be to God.**

Worship Leader: Pastor Dean Simpson

Musician: Pamm Mercer

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