



*"Lord, if my brother sins against me,
how often must I forgive? As many as seven
times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not
seven times but seventy-seven times."*

-Matthew 18:21-35

St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School

7710 East State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815
749-5816

September 12, 2026 – 5:00pm
September 13, 2026 – 10:30am

Rev. Danny Eggold, Senior Pastor
Rev. Adam McDowell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Nathan Widener, Associate Pastor & Director of Community of Care
Rev. James Sharp, Missionary to Puerto Rico
Tim Degen, Director of Music & Organist
Chris Brune, Principal
Barb Christian, Preschool Director

THE SIXTEENTH WEEKEND AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2026 – 5:00pm

September 13, 2026 – 10:30am

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Jesus, Draw Me Close”

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord”

(Praise Team)

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Come, bow before Him now, with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

(All)

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

He burns with holy fire, with splendor He is crowned.

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.

No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from Him,

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

“Jesus, Draw Me Close”

(Praise Team)

Jesus, draw me close; closer, Lord, to You.

Let the world around me fade away.

Jesus, draw me close; closer, Lord, to You.

For I desire to worship and obey.

(All)

Jesus, draw me close; closer, Lord, to You.

Let the world around me fade away.

Jesus, draw me close; closer, Lord, to You.

For I desire to worship and obey.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG OF PRAISE

“Great Are You, Lord”

(Praise Team)

You give life You are love

You bring light to the darkness

You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken

And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise

We pour out our praise

It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise to You only

(All)

You give life You are love

You bring light to the darkness

You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that is broken

And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise

We pour out our praise

It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise to You only

(Praise Team)

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord

(All)

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

(We rise.)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P 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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P 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. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has 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 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.**

P 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 those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

P Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness,
C **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.**

(We are seated.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalms 103:1-12

P Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

C **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**

P who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

C **who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

P who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
C **The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

P He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
C **The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
C **He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

P For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
C **as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Ten Thousand Reasons”

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me ----
Let me be singing when the evening comes.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

**You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing ----
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

**And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending ----
Ten thousand years and then forevermore.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.
I'll worship Your holy name.**

EPISTLE READING

Romans 14:1-12

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let 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. ⁴ Who 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. 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. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? 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 confess to God.” ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(We rise.)

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(10:30 – During the Song of Response, children age 3 through first grade are invited to attend “Kids of the Kingdom” children’s church. They will return following the sermon.)

(We are seated.)

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

(Tune: “Amazing Grace”)

**“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.**

**How can Your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light Your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You.**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace...
Forgive.**

SERMON

“Ridiculous Mercy”

Text: Matthew 18:21-35 – Pastor Danny Eggold

(We rise.)

APOSTLES’ CREED

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

(We are seated.)

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERING SONG “You Have Been Good”

(Praise Team)

O Lord, You have been good,
You have been faithful to all generations.
O Lord, Your steadfast love and tender mercy have been our salvation.

O Lord, You have been good,
You have been faithful to all generations.
O Lord, Your steadfast love and tender mercy have been our salvation.

For by Your hand we have been fed,
And by Your Spirit we have been led.

(All)

O Lord, You have been good,
You have been faithful to all generations.

For by Your hand we have been fed,
And by Your Spirit we have been led.
O Lord, Almighty God, Father unchanging, upright and holy.

O Lord, You have been good,
You have been faithful, You have been good.
You have been faithful, You have been good.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P** Merciful Father,
C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(We rise.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Remembering the Church, the world, and all those in need, let us offer our prayers to God.

(A brief silence.)

- P** Merciful and gracious Lord, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, heal the divisions within Your Church, and grant a spirit of humility, charity, and cooperation among Christians, that together we may bear witness to the mercy and forgiveness we have received from You. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** Hear our prayer.

- P** Lord to whom we belong, whether we live or die we are Yours. Bless our pastors, teachers, and all who lead in this congregation. Grant them faithfulness, wisdom, and joy as they proclaim Your Word and bear witness to the riches of Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** Hear our prayer.

- P** God who works good even through human evil, look with mercy upon countries in conflict or threatened by war, upon refugees and hostages, and upon all who long for freedom and justice. Restrain evil, protect the innocent, and bring peace and good even out of what others intend for harm. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** Hear our prayer.

P Father who has compassion on His children, draw near to all who are burdened by worry, poverty, loneliness, or sickness (*especially those we have named before You and those we name silently...*). Sustain them in their need, forgive their sins, strengthen them in faith, and surround them with Your steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Lord who executes righteousness and justice for the oppressed, be near to victims of crime, hatred, injustice, and abuse. Defend the vulnerable, bring wrongdoers to repentance, and grant healing of body, mind, and spirit to those who have been wounded. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Lord, before whom each of us stands, be with Pastor McDowell as he prayerfully considers the calls before him and where You would have him serve. Grant him wisdom, clarity, peace, and confidence as he seeks to serve You faithfully. Bless also the congregations involved, that Your will may be done and Your Church strengthened through his service. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

P Lord of both the living and the dead, we give You thanks for all the saints who have gone before us in faith and now rest from their labors. We praise You for the mercy and forgiveness You revealed through their lives. Keep us steadfast in Christ, that we may follow their faithful example, forgive as we have been forgiven, and at last share with them in the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Father, 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.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C 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.

BENEDICTION and DISMISSAL

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

(We are seated.)

SENDING SONG

“The Commission”

(Solo)

See my hands look at my feet
It's okay if it's hard to believe
I have faith you will do greater things
It's my time to go but before I leave

(Praise Team)

Go tell the world about me
I was dead but now I live
I've got to go now for a little while
But goodbye is not the end

(All)

**Go tell the world about me
I was dead but now I live
I've got to go now for a little while
But goodbye is not the end**

(Solo)

Don't forget the things that I taught you
I conquered death and I hold the keys
Where I go you will go too someday
But there's much to do here before you leave

(All)

**Go tell the world about me
I was dead but now I live
I've got to go now for a little while**

(Solo)

But goodbye is not the
End of the journey the end of the road
My Spirit is with you wherever you go
You have a purpose and I have a plan
I'll make you this promise
I'll come back again but until then

(All)

**Go tell the world about me
I was dead but now I live
I've got to go now for a little while
But goodbye is not the end**

Go tell the world about me
I was dead but now I live
I've got to go now for a little while
But goodbye is not the end
But goodbye is not the end

POST-SERVICE MUSIC

“The Commission”