

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

10:30 a.m.



"AND SHOULD NOT
YOU HAVE HAD
mercy
ON YOUR FELLOW SERVANT,
AS I HAD
mercy
ON YOU?"

MATTHEW 18:33, ESV

On September 14, the church celebrates Holy Cross Day. The cross, marked on our foreheads at baptism and traced over our bodies at the funeral liturgy, assures us of Christ's victory over death and the promise of eternal life.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus invites us to forgive one another. His invitation, however, is not an optional activity for Christians. It is the heart of the gospel and the distinctive character of Christian life. Out of love for us in our weakness and sin, God forgives us, heals us, and strengthens us to be a forgiving people. The sign of the cross invites us to the daily ministry of reconciliation.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Stand

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P Most merciful God,

C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,

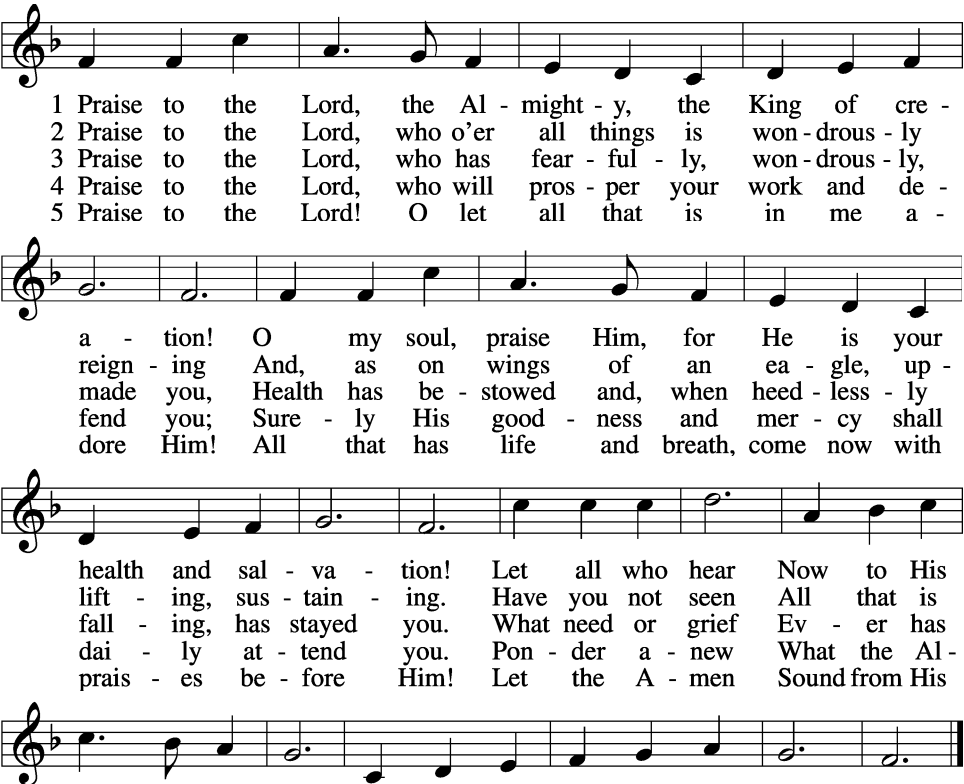
and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN “Praise To The Lord, The Almighty” LSB 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His

tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Text and tune: Public domain

KYRIE

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

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



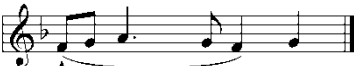
C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - - - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Verse 1

Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Sing the Refrain*

Verse 2

Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Sing the Refrain*

Verse 3

Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion:

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - men. *Sing the Refrain*

Verse 4

For the Lamb who was slain has be -
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - - - ia. *continue below*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - - - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

P O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

Sit

Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 50:15-21

NRSV

The story of Joseph is a wisdom story. In it, Joseph plays the role of a wise man. Portrayed in a situation of oppression, he provides an important model of how the wise should act.

R 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?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, '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. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 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. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

SECOND LESSON Romans 14:1-12

NIV

The Christians in Rome came from a diversity of cultural backgrounds: some Jewish, some Gentile. Here Paul urges them to respect one another's opinions on various religious matters, even though he himself believes that some of the ideas are held by people weak in faith.

R 'Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives

for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' " So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. '

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

Stand

intro: one chord

C Al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter - nal - life. Al-le-lu - ia. Al-le-lu - ia.

GOSPEL **P** The Gospel is written in Matthew chapter 18, beginning at verse 21.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

CEV

Jesus has been instructing his disciples about confronting other people who live in ways that are sinful. Now, Peter's question about forgiveness elicits a parable that clarifies this issue. Although the community of faith should challenge sinners to repent, it should also proclaim a forgiveness that reflects the bountiful mercy of God.

P ' Peter came up to the Lord and asked, "How many times should I forgive someone who does something wrong to me? Is seven times enough?" Jesus answered: Not just 7 times, but 77 times! This story will show you what the kingdom of heaven is like: One day a king decided to call in his officials and ask them to give an account of what they owed him. As he was doing this, one official was brought in who owed him 50,000,000 silver coins. But he didn't have any money to pay what he owed. The king ordered him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all he owned, in order to pay the debt. The official got down on his knees and began begging, "Have pity on me, and I will pay you every cent I owe!" The king felt sorry for him and let him go free. He even told the official that he did not have to pay back the money. But as this official was leaving, he happened to meet another official, who owed him 100 silver coins. So he grabbed the man by the throat. He started choking him and said, "Pay me what you owe!" The man got down on his knees and began begging, "Have pity on me, and I will pay you back." But the first official refused to have pity. Instead, he went and had the other official put in jail until he could pay what he owed. When

some other officials found out what had happened, they felt sorry for the man who had been put in jail. Then they told the king what had happened. The king called the first official back in and said, "You're an evil man! When you begged for mercy, I said you did not have to pay back a cent. Don't you think you should show pity to someone else, as I did to you?" The king was so angry that he ordered the official to be tortured until he could pay back everything he owed. That is how my Father in heaven will treat you, if you don't forgive each of my followers with all your heart.'

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

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

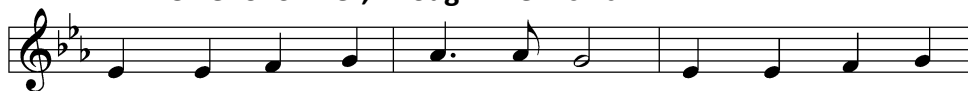
**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come again 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.**

MESSAGE

Stand

HYMN “Chief of Sinner, Though I Be” LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “hear our prayer.” The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER



OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.

OFFERTORY SONG AND PRAYER

introduction

G Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, ' and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer
now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give
us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

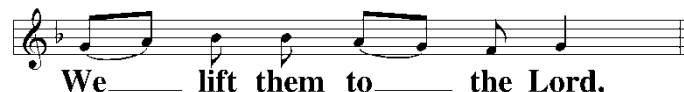
THE PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.



C

P Lift up your hearts.



C

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



C



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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."

P 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."

LORD’S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

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

THE LAMB OF GOD

C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN “Holy Spirit, Light Divine” LSB 496

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, light di - vine, Shine up - on this heart of mine;
2 Let me see my Sav - ior's face, Let me all His beau - ties trace;
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, pow'r di - vine, Cleanse this guilt - y heart of mine;
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, joy di - vine, Cheer this sad-dened heart of mine;
5 Ho - ly Spir - it, all di - vine, Dwell with - in this heart of mine;



Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark-ness in - to day.
 Show those glo-rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee.
 In Thy mer - cy pit - y me, From sin's bond-age set me free.
 Yield a sa - cred, set-tled peace, Let it grow and still in-crease.
 Cast down ev - 'ry i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

THE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C** **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER

intro: one chord



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'-ry-one what



he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and



proud-ly bear his name. He re - calls his prom - is - es



and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with shouts



of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P Let us pray. Lord God, you are the one for whom we have waited. We rejoice in your salvation. As you have fed us with the riches of this table, place us again in your vineyard to reap the harvest of righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

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.**

CLOSING HYMN “Lord of All Hopefulness” LSB 738



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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POSTLUDE

****A note about the lessons***

The Second (Epistle) Lesson for the summer will be taken from Paul's letter to the Romans. Each Sunday we will be reading another selection of the letter, ending with chapter 14 on September 13.

The New Revised Standard Version is our usual translation for Scripture reading in worship. In the weeks ahead, however, we will use other versions and translations to highlight selected passages. No English Bible version is 'perfect' - though they all strive to be faithful to the original. Using a variety of translations will help us get a different perspective on what the original Greek text is trying to convey.

Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778

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