

SUNDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

11:00 AM

September 13, 2026 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

[Please stand, as able, where indicated.]

GATHERING

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

Croly, Atkinson

OPENING ANTHEM

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351

MINISTRY OF FRIENDSHIP - ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY:

- **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
- **PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES AND SMART WATCHES**
- **WELCOME TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY**

MINISTRY MINUTE

Stephen Ministry

Sally Campbell

[Please stand as you are able]

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

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.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

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 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.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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!

KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...(silence) 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.

C: Amen.

[Please sit]

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

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.

Lector: A reading from Genesis.

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:1-13

L: 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.**

L: He forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

**C: he redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;**

L: he satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**C: The LORD executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

L: He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.

**C: The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

L: He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**C: He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

**C: As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.**

L: As a father cares for his children,
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

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.

Lector: A reading from Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 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. Who are you to pass judgment on servants 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. 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. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 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. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

[Please stand as you are able]

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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

P: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 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 Holy Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

[Please sit]

SERMON

Pastor Finley

[Please stand as you are able]

HYMN OF THE DAY

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

ELW 605

PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

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

A: Merciful Lord God, we approach you with fear that our sins might be too great to be forgiven. But you have taught us to trust you and depend on your generous grace. Bring us up out of our disobedience and give us your peace.

A: Lord in your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.

A: Loving Redeemer, make your mighty works known to all generations through the stories that our lives tell. Help us, always, to proclaim our love for you through our words and actions. In the same way you care for us. Help us be aware of the needs of others and respond in love.

A: Lord in your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.

A: God of all nations, you welcome all who come to you. Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. Help us to honor you by acknowledging every person on this earth as your own child. Remove our prejudice and fear and replace it with your own vision of honor for all.

A: Lord in your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.

A: God of reconciliation and peace, send your loving care to those who feel overburdened, needy in body, soul, or spirit. We especially pray for those who we name silently in our hearts and with our voices now... (*long pause*) ... We ask your mercy, your strength, and your peace for them at all times.

A: Lord in your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY

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 dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;

and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,

who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of his body and drink of his blood

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with Christ's body and blood

we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power

to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,

the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,

that we who receive the Lord's body and blood

may live to the praise of your glory

and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

C: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

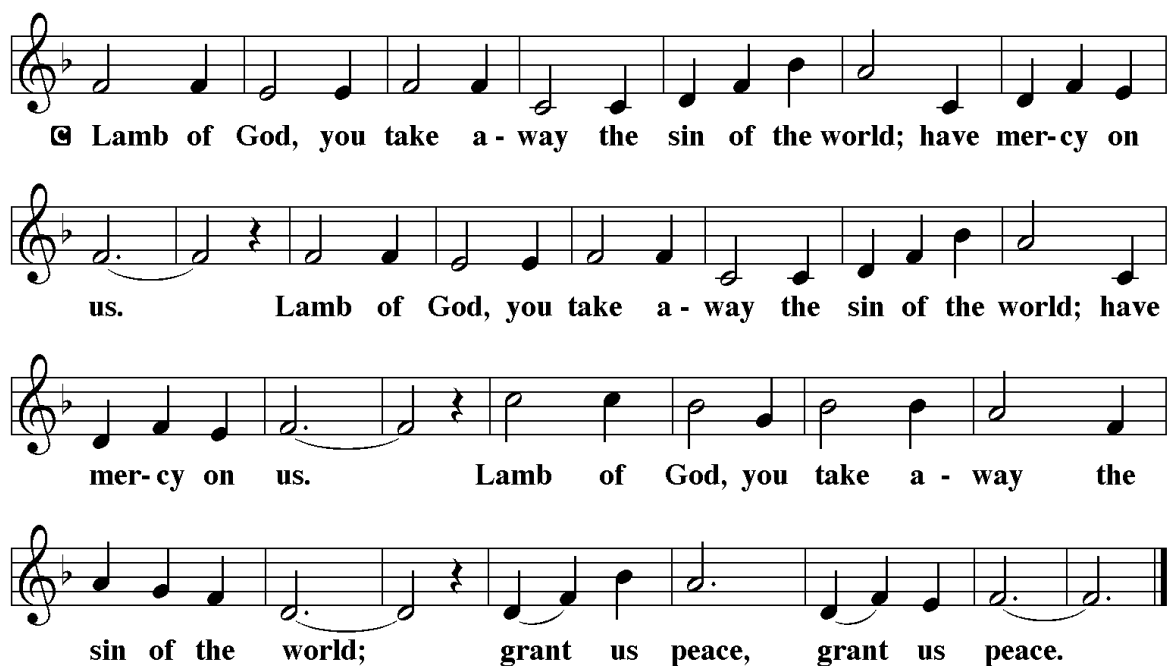
INVITATION & FRACTURE

P: This is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

C: Lord, give us this bread always.

[Please sit]

LAMB OF GOD



☞ 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; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION: INTINCTION AND COMMON CUP

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* arr. Nigel Williams
~ flute — Deborah Scarazzo, clarinet — Scott Kooy

[Please stand as you are able]

TABLE BLESSING

P: May this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING OF SHEPHERDS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

P: O God, whose name is blessed in all the earth: as holy baptism calls us to share our faith in word and deed, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our absent brothers and sisters. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this Holy Eucharist, that through the body and blood of your Son all may celebrate your faithfulness and love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

SENDING HYMN

In Thee Is Gladness

ELW 867

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

A: Glorify God. Spread the Word.

C: Love One Another.

POSTLUDE