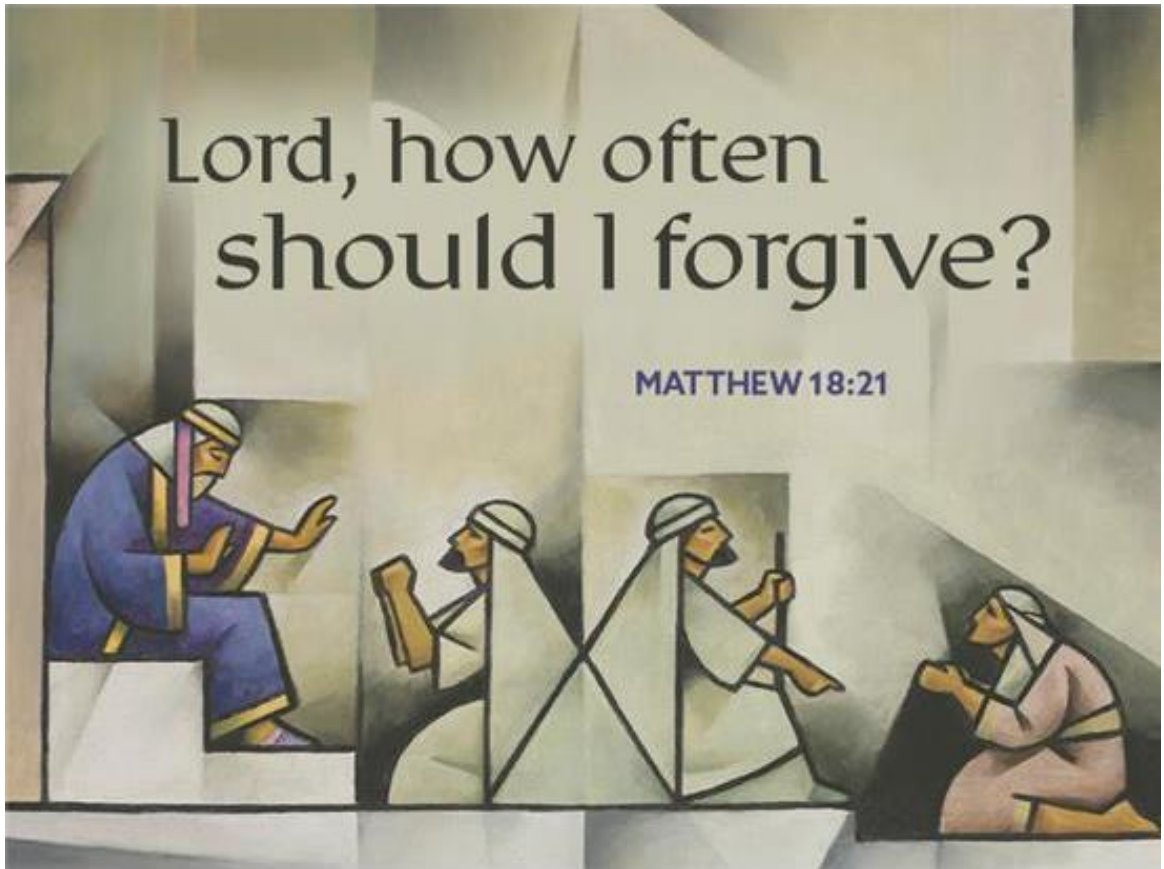


16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

8:30, 11:00 a.m. & Livestream



FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Rev. Drew McCaffery, Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history. Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.



✦ GATHERING ✦

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth..*

C **Amen.**

P *Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Compassionate God,*

C **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P *Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.*

C **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Shout to the Lord

Sing twice

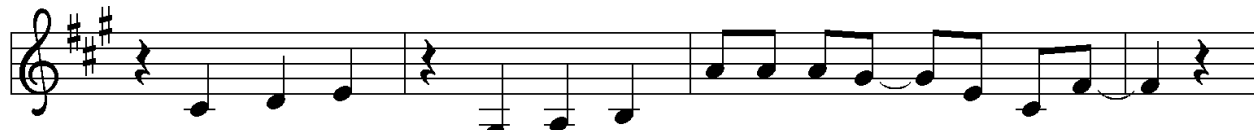
No. 821



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won-ders of your might-y love.



My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev-'ry breath, all that I am nev-er cease to wor-ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow-er and maj - es - ty, praise



to the King. Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;



for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.



Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

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.**

Hymn of Praise

Bless the Lord

Tore W. Aas

Bless the Lord, O my soul
Bless the Lord, O my soul
Bless the Lord, O my soul
Praise His holy name.

Repeat 2 more times

Sing each line after leader

The Lord is good
He reigns forever
He's merciful
Bless His holy name

Repeat first part 3x

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

A *Let us pray. O Lord God,*
C **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.**

Please be seated.

✦ **THE WORD** ✦

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

A *A reading from Genesis. 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.

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 103:8-13

Read Responsively

A ⁸ *Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;*

C ⁹ **you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

A ¹⁰ *You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.*

C ¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

A ¹² *As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.*

C ¹³ **As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord**

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

A *A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans. 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.

A *The word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

P *The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the Eighteenth chapter.*

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

P 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.*
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Drew McCaffery

Hymn of the Day

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

No. 605



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

A *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.*

C **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 to the dead. 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.

A *Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.*

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A *Hear us, O God.*

C **your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

P *Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.*

C **Amen.**

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C **And also with you.**

After sharing the peace, please be seated.

Offering

As the gifts are presented, please stand, as you are able.

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. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

A *Let us pray. God of creation,*
C **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

✦ THE EUCHARIST ✦

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 our thanks and praise.**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

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

P *Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.*

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

P *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

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.

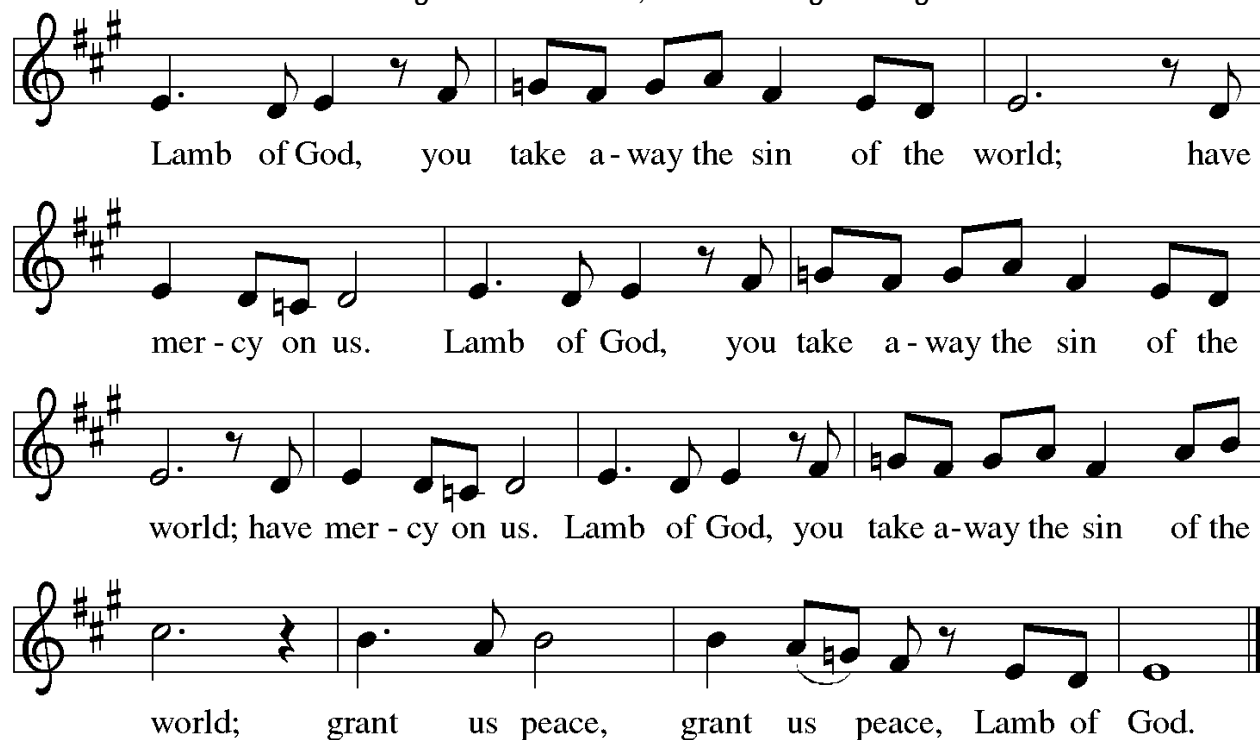
P *Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!*

C **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table! Whether you are a member of this church or a visitor, the Communion celebrated here is "open" to all who trust that our Lord Jesus Christ—his true Body and his true Blood—is present for All of God's People. (Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and white grape juice.)

During the distribution, the following is sung.

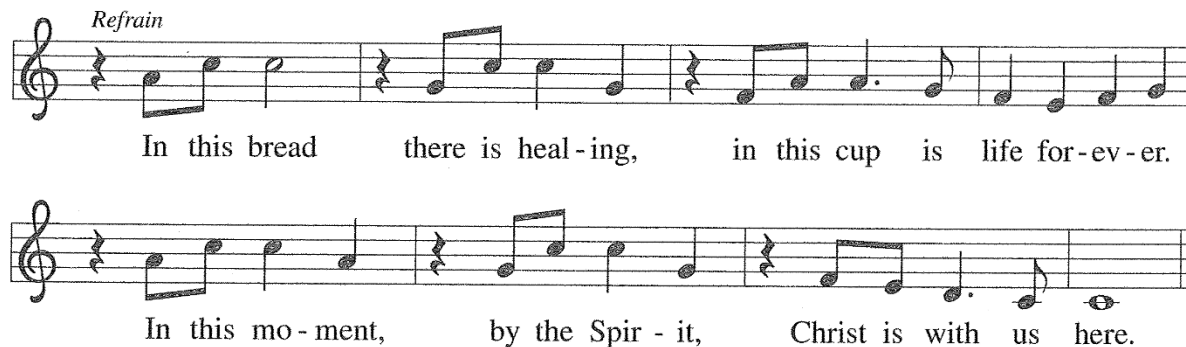


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn

Here Is Bread

Refrain only after all have communed



Refrain
In this bread there is heal-ing, in this cup is life for-ev-er.
In this mo-ment, by the Spir-it, Christ is with us here.

After all have communed, please stand, as you are able.

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

A *Let us pray. Sustaining God,*
C **with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

✦ **SENDING** ✦

P *The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.*

C **Amen.**

P *The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.*

C **Amen.**

P *The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.*

C **Amen.**



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

A *Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude***Pray for Those That Need God's Healing***

*Paul, Lynne, Andrea, Al, Joan, Daisy, Betty,
Jean, Nancy, Nick and Lois*

The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God

in loving memory of Tom Meyer by Carol Meyer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Drew McCaffery
Sherman Canapp, OSSD Deacon
Betsey Foster, OSSD Deacon
Jessie Lim, Music Director
Gina Miller, Office Manager
Dawn Love, Church Secretary
Council President, Tina Zimmerman
Treasurer, Linda Ruese
Lois Dobart, Preschool Director

Pr.Drew@lcgsselca.org
canappsherman501@gmail.com
betseyfoster@yahoo.com
Music@lcgsselca.org
officemanager@lcgsselca.org
officesecretary@lcgsselca.org
council_president@lcgsselca.org
treasurer@lcgsselca.org
school@lcgsselca.org

(M) 814-538-9036
(M) 443-904-7013
(M) 443-506-1528
(O) 410-838-8081
(O) 410-838-8081
(O) 410-838-8081

(O) 410-838-8457

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SERVING TODAY

8:30 am

11:00 am

Assisting Minister

Sallie Gartside

Tina Zimmerman

Communion Assistants

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Ushers

Doyle McCracken
Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Peggy Thomas
John Helmick

Livestream

Joel Raedeke