

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023

“Forgiven and Forgiving”

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #606 *“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”*



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION AND OPENING VERSES

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

C: Amen.

P: The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

C: slow to anger and abounding in love.

P: As far as the east is from the west,

C: so far does He remove our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:8, 12

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: O God, we confess to You all the bitterness we have harbored toward our neighbors, our refusal to forgive, and our lack of love toward those in need. In Your tender mercy do not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. In Your steadfast love and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior, grant us Your forgiveness, fill us with Your love, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 103:1-12 (ESV)

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

(please be seated)

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #790 *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*



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!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, how quickly we forget the great love with which You love us and the grace You have freely bestowed upon us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ! Grant that our gaze be fixed on Jesus, our hearts overwhelmed by Your love, and that all our relationships may be marked by forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 50:15-21 (ESV)

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." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: '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. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 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. 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.

THE EPISTLE Romans 14:1-12 (ESV)

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 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. 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. 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. 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. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. 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; for it is written, “As I live,” says the Lord, “every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God” [Isaiah 45:23]. 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.

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA VERSE (#816, verse 2 “From All That Dwell Below the Skies”)

**Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Then Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents [*that is, millions of dollars*]. 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. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a

hundred denarii [*that is, a few dollars*], and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 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. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 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.**

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR SEPTEMBER ~ Psalm 27:1 (ESV)

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY *"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"* (LSB: #843 Tune: #554)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) "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. | 3) In blazing light Your cross reveals
The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us,
How great our debt to You! |
| 2) How can Your pardon reach and bless
The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let
Old bitterness depart? | 4) 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. |

THE SERMON *“Forgiven and Forgiving”* Text: Matthew 18:21-35

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS & HYMN #706 *“Love in Christ”*

1 Love in Christ is strong and living, Binding faithful hearts in one;
Love in Christ is true and giving. May His will in us be done.

2 Love is patient and forbearing, Clothed in Christ’s humility,
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, Reaching out in charity.

3 Love in Christ abides forever, Fainting not when ills attend;
Love, forgiving and forgiven, Shall endure until life’s end.

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(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Let us pray to the Lord,” “Lord have mercy.”)

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(printed inside the back cover of the hymnal)*

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

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

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#547 *“The Lamb”*

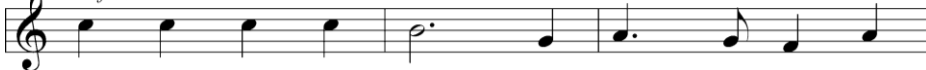


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where’s the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav’n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - ’ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



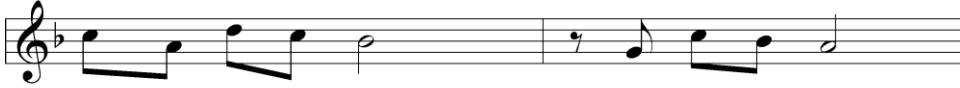
own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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#629 "What Is This Bread?"



1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y
2 What is this wine? The blood of
3 So who am I, That I should
4 Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By
5 Is this for me? I am for -



ris - en from the dead: This bread we break,
Je - sus shed for mine; The cup of grace
live and He should die Un - der the rod?
Word and prom - ise clear, In mouth and soul
giv - en and set free! I do be - lieve



This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our re -
Brings His em - brace Of life and love un - til I
My God, my God, Why have You not for - sak - en
He makes us whole— Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this
That I re - ceive His ver - y bod - y and His



lease. O taste and see— the Lord is peace.
sing! O taste and see— the Lord is King.
me? O taste and see— the Lord is free.
meal. O taste and see— the Lord is real.
blood. O taste and see— the Lord is good.

#611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"



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.

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE 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.

(please be seated)

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS