

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023

PRELUDE, BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME

“Children of the Heavenly Father” LSB 725

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

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INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 8*

P: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

C: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

P: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! . . .

C: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”

P: Come and see what God has done:

C: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

P: Bless our God, O peoples;

C: let the sound of His praise be heard.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C: O most gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We know well that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your faithful servants. We have been unforgiving and loveless and careless in the stewardship of Your creation. We deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity.

**Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and guide us into renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.**

P: God is indeed gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, 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.

**C: Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Genesis 50:15–21*

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"

So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE**

*Romans 14:1–12*

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables.

The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.

Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.

He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone.

If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to 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 why do you look down on your brother? 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 confess to God.' " So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 18:21–35*

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

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

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **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.**

**“I Know My Faith Is Founded” LSB 587**

1 I know my faith is founded  
On Jesus Christ, my God and Lord;  
And this my faith confessing,  
Unmoved I stand on His sure Word.  
Our reason cannot fathom  
The truth of God profound;  
Who trusts in human wisdom  
Relies on shifting ground.  
God’s Word is all-sufficient,  
It makes divinely sure;  
And trusting in its wisdom,  
My faith shall rest secure.

2 Increase my faith, dear Savior,  
For Satan seeks by night and day  
To rob me of this treasure  
And take my hope of bliss away.  
But, Lord, with You beside me,  
I shall be undismayed;  
And led by Your good Spirit,  
I shall be unafraid.  
Abide with me, O Savior,  
A firmer faith bestow;  
Then I shall bid defiance  
To ev’ry evil foe.

3 In faith, Lord, let me serve You;  
Though persecution, grief, and pain  
Should seek to overwhelm me,  
Let me a steadfast trust retain;  
And then at my departure,  
Lord, take me home to You,  
Your riches to inherit  
As all You said holds true.

In life and death, Lord, keep me  
Until Your heav'n I gain,  
Where I by Your great mercy  
The end of faith attain.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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**SERMON** *Do Not Fear*<sup>100</sup>

*Genesis 50:15-21*

## **OFFERING**

### **“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” LSB 722**

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me  
Upon life's way;  
Direct, protect, and feed me  
From day to day.  
Without Your grace and favor  
I go astray;  
So take my hand, O Savior,  
And lead the way.

2 Lord, when the tempest rages,  
I need not fear,  
For You, the Rock of Ages,  
Are always near.  
Close by Your side abiding,  
I fear no foe,  
For when Your hand is guiding,  
In peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen  
And night has come,  
I know that You will strengthen  
My steps toward home.  
Then nothing can impede me,  
O blessèd Friend;  
So take my hand and lead me  
Unto the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.  
We pray for the Church, that God's people live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. Grant that humility and mutual service be the hallmarks of our lives together.

P: We pray for the nations of the world, that the presence of Christ be experienced everywhere around the globe and that the Gospel may have free course in every land. We bless You for the dedicated service of missionaries and deployed church workers in so many places around the globe. Grant that their service may meet with success and be filled with joy.

- P: We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship. Grant that we be always ready to listen to others and to grant our forgiveness when it is needed. As we live in community together, grant that we never take others for granted but rather that we encourage the labors in which we work together to the glory of God.
- P: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut in, those who are grieving at this time, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill, and all those whose needs are known and not known to us, [*especially . . .*]. Grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places, even when that service requires devotion and sacrifice on our part.
- P: Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. We thank You for the times when forgiveness, offered by others, has blessed and sustained us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant's way throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.
- C: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **PREFACE**

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 Him thanks and praise.**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. As our comforter and guide, send us Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit who brings to life the power of Jesus Christ. Bless us, Your children, so that all we who partake of Christ's holy body and of His precious blood may be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy, so that we may live in the hope of an eternity gathered around Your heavenly Table.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

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 covenant in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **PAX DOMINI**

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

C: **Amen.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

*LSB 198*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.**

**Amen.**

## **“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray” LSB 623**

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray  
That we may feast on You today;  
Beneath these forms of bread and wine  
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
- 2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,  
Your body broken and Your blood,  
The grateful peace of sins forgiv’n,  
The certain joys of heirs of heav’n.
- 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold  
To seize the gift of love retold;  
All that You are we here receive,  
And all we are to You we give.
- 4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,  
Rejoicing in our unity,  
Proclaim Your love until You come  
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
- 5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:  
O keep us steadfast till that day  
When each will be Your welcomed guest  
In heaven’s high and holy feast.

Text: Henry E. Jacobs, 1844–1932, alt.

Text and music: Public domain

**“On Eagles’ Wings” LSB 727**

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in His shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: “My refuge,  
My rock in whom I trust!” Refrain

ref And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under His wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield. Refrain

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day;  
Though thousands fall about you,  
Near you it shall not come. Refrain

4 For to His angels He’s given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Refrain

Text: Michael Joncas, 1951

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**“Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior” LSB 619**

1 Thy body, giv’n for me, O Savior,  
Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,  
These are my life and strength forever,  
By them my hungry soul is fed. Refrain

ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood  
Be for my soul the highest good!

2 With Thee, Lord, I am now united;  
I live in Thee and Thou in me.  
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted  
It finds its only joy in Thee. Refrain

3 Who can condemn me now? For surely  
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.  
No hell I fear, and thus securely  
With Jesus I to heaven rise. Refrain

4 Though death may threaten with disaster,  
It cannot rob me of my cheer;  
For He who is of death the master  
With aid and comfort e’er is near. Refrain



5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling,  
O blessèd, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, Thy praises telling,  
Shall live in joy eternally. Refrain

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

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## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

Grant, O Lord, that this Sacrament that we have now received strengthen us in faith, faith demonstrated in loving service to one another and marked by forgiveness and care. As we have shared in the hospitality of Your Table, enable us to live each day as Your people who are given to hospitality, charity, and service in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

## BENEDICTION

P: Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

C: Amen.

## “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” LSB 918

- 1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;  
Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.
  
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer,  
Be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
  
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell’s destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to Thee;  
I will ever give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91

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