

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LINCOLN**  
**Worship Plan for Sunday, September 17, 2023**  
**Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost**

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**C: Amen.**

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**

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.*

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**

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**

**GATHERING HYMN: LBW #527 “All Creatures of Our God and King”**

OPEN HYMNAL to Page 527

**GREETING**

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 In peace, let us pray to the Lord. G Lord, have mer - cy.

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

  
G Lord, have mer - cy.

  
A 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.

  
G Lord, have mer - cy.

  
A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

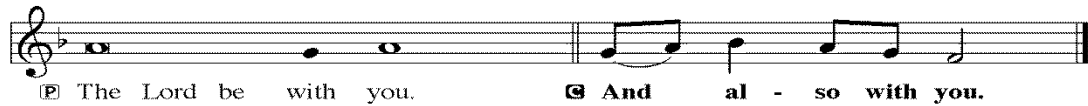
  
let us pray to the Lord. G Lord, have mer - cy.

  
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. G A - men

## SING HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [I] Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was  
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [II] Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and  
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [I] 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.  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,  
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [II] For the Lamb who was  
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.  
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



Let us pray. . . .

*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.  
Amen*

## FIRST LESSON: 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.*

<sup>15</sup>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?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'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. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Here ends the reading.

## PSALM for the day is from Psalm 103:1-13

**TODAY's THEME:** The LORD is full of compassion and mercy.

- <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- <sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.**
- <sup>3</sup>He forgives all your sins  
and heals all your infirmities;
- <sup>4</sup>**he redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;**
- <sup>5</sup>he satisfies you with good things,  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup>**The LORD executes righteousness  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>He made his ways known to Moses  
and his works to the children of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.**  
<sup>9</sup>He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
<sup>10</sup>**He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**  
<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.  
<sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.**  
<sup>13</sup>As a father cares for his children,  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

## **SECOND LESSON 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

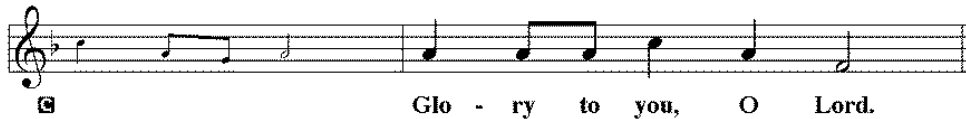
Here ends the reading.

**VERSE**



## GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.



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

<sup>21</sup>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?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



## PROCLAMATION OF THE DAY

### HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW #307 “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

#### Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



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.

## APOSTLES' CREED

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.*  
*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.*  
*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.*  
*He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*  
*He will come again 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*

## THE PRAYERS

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation,  
and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Abba Father, in our busy lives we don't take the time away from the distractions of this world to speak with you as we should, hear now the prayers that we offer in the silence of our hearts. *A brief silence.* Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world (*like Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, whom we commemorate today*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**



## OFFERING



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.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

Blessed are you,

*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*

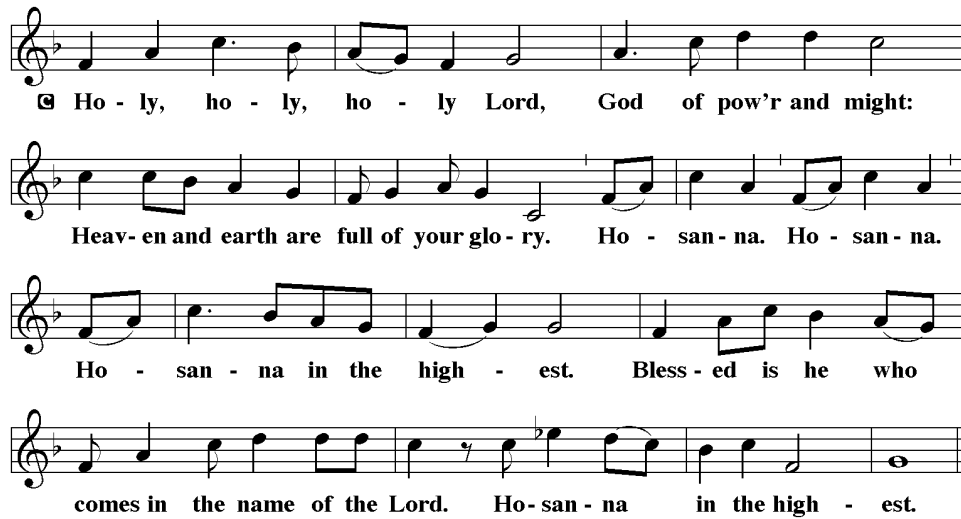
## DIALOGUE

**P** The Lord be with you. **☩** And al - so with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts. **☩** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**☩** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

**P** It is indeed right and sal - u - tary that we should at all times and in all  
plac - es of - fer 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 res - ur - rection o - pened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life. And so,  
with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en, we praise your name  
and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav- en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

*C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and blessed it;  
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:  
Take and drink; 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 this bread and drink of this cup,  
We proclaim our Lord's death until he comes again.

## LORD'S PRAYER

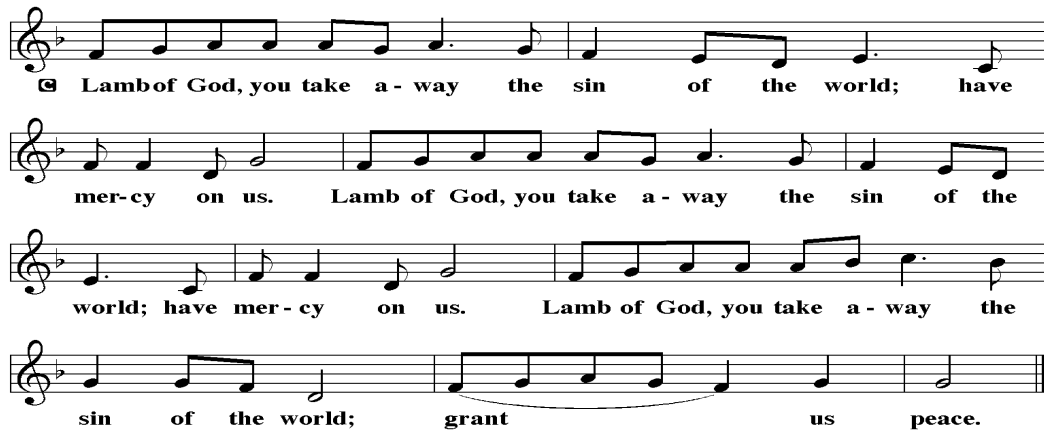
*Our Father, who art in heaven,*

*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.*

## COMMUNION

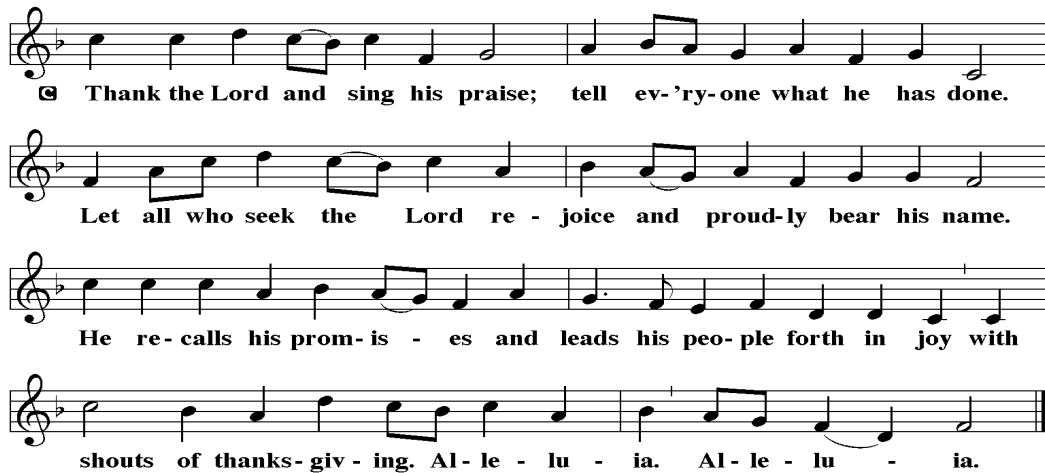
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*After each, the communicant responds:*  
**C: Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN



## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

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



## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*C: Amen*

## BLESSING

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.

**Amen**

**SENDING HYMN: WOV #780 “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”**

## What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,  
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

### *Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.