



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

9:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Building Disciples - Growing in Faith
Serving in Christ's Name

The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor

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Welcome to all – especially visitors!!!

It is no accident that you are here today!

You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!

Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex or from an usher.

Holy Communion: All God's Children are welcome to come to God's Table! It is at the Table we receive Christ's body and blood through the bread and wine. This holy meal renews and nourishes our spirit. Come and eat. If you are unable to walk up to the altar to receive communion, please let an usher know and Pastor will bring communion to you.

The prefilled glasses are grape juice.

Please remember to write any prayer requests for today in the prayer book in the Narthex.



ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNITY TIME

PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are comfortable.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: In the presence of God, who knows our very hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: we come before you, beloved but broken. We have not always treated others as we would want them to treat us. We have not always called out injustice and abuse. We have not always been kind to ourselves. We have not always taken care of the world we share with other living creatures. Remind us of who we are: beloved children bathed in your love.

Renew us by your Spirit to live as your holy people, bringing healing to the brokenness around us. Amen.

P: At every moment you are held in existence by the love of God, renewed by the Spirit within and among you, and made alive again in Christ. Receive this assurance in Jesus' name: you are + forgiven and freed to live for the healing of the world.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #864 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

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



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



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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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 be seated.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

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

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (read responsively)

[¹Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

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

⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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.

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

¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written,

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

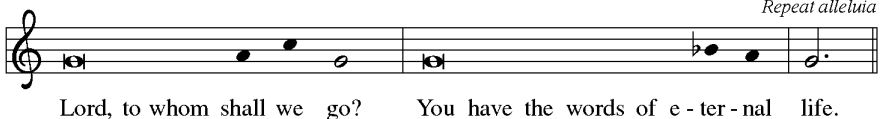
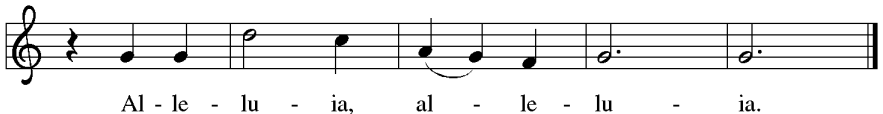
¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 21-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter 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?" ²²Jesus 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. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So 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 our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Gwenn Trout

Please stand as you are comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #359 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our Christian faith in 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.

THE PRAYERS

The assisting minister prays on behalf of the congregation.

A: Growing in the soil of the Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who seek the richness of life in God.

A brief silence.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: 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 Elizabeth, Dottie, Sherry, Jack, Jerry, Doug, Thomas, Jordan, Christian, Pastor Anne, Sheree, Janie, Tom, Reba, Arla, Marge, Jerry, Terrie, and those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. // Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Hear us as we pray, living God, and nourish us always at your table of grace, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

C: Amen.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

We share a sign of peace with our neighbors, then are seated.

OFFERING

"We Come Now to Your Table"

Ushers will collect the offering.

Please stand as you are comfortable.

OFFERTORY "As the Grains of Wheat"

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were". The second staff continues: "gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from". The third staff concludes: "all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you." The music ends with a double bar line.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Please join me in prayer:

C: Generous God, we thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us daily. Make us aware of each blessing that comes our way, and create in us the constant desire to be blessings for others. Bless what we bring before you, we pray. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. From age to age your creation sings your praises. You feed even the birds of the air, and you clothe the fields with lilies. You gave your blessing to Abraham and his descendants, and you spoke with Moses, Elijah, and David. Blessed are you, Lord our God:

C: Blessed are you, Lord our God.

You fulfilled your covenant with us in Jesus. He is Emmanuel, your beloved Son, the star that guides us to wisdom, the treasure hidden in a field. He is the landowner who overpays the workers, the judge who separates good from evil. Blessed are you, Lord our God:

C: Blessed are you, Lord our God.

For us he lived, for us he died, for us he rose to eternal life. Then and now he invites us to your banquet.

On 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.

We hear his call, we repent our ways, and we enter with joy into the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, Lord our God:

C: Blessed are you, Lord our God.

Send your Holy Spirit here on your gathered disciples. Make of this meal the body and blood of forgiveness. Heal us and grant us your righteousness, that we may love you and serve our neighbors.

Blessed are you, Lord our God:

C: Blessed are you, Lord our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, our Father in heaven, the Rock on which we build, the Dove alighting on us all. We worship you and sing our praises, today and to the end of the age. Amen.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 TO COMMUNION

P: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

C: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

"Here Would I Feast"

Please stand as you are comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus ✝ this day, and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #867 "In Thee is Gladness"

DISMISSAL

A: Strengthened by the living bread that Christ has given us, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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