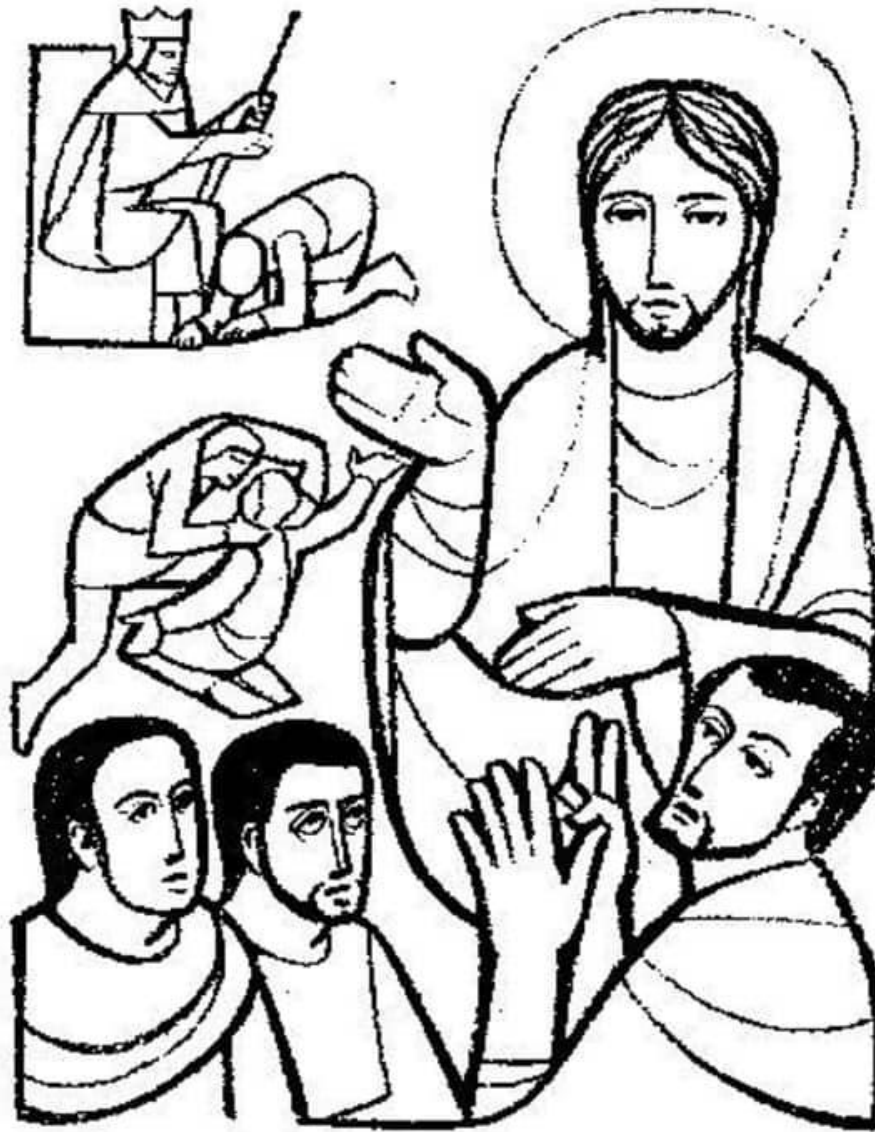


+The Divine Service+

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost | September 13, 2026 | 8AM



The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Saint Paul Ev. Lutheran Church—Preble, Indiana

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

4510 W. 750 N., Decatur, Indiana 46733 | 260.547.4176

Church Email: stpaulpreble@gmail.com

Webpage: stpaulpreble.org

Rev. Andrew T. Yeager, Pastor | 260-226-0375 | andrewtyeager@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Daniel J. Brege, Pastor | 260-223-1962 | djbrege@hotmail.com

Confession and Absolution

When the bells ring, stand and face the Crucifix.

Hymn of Invocation | 559 Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



The Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

I have fled to you for refuge!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Enter not into judgment with your servant,

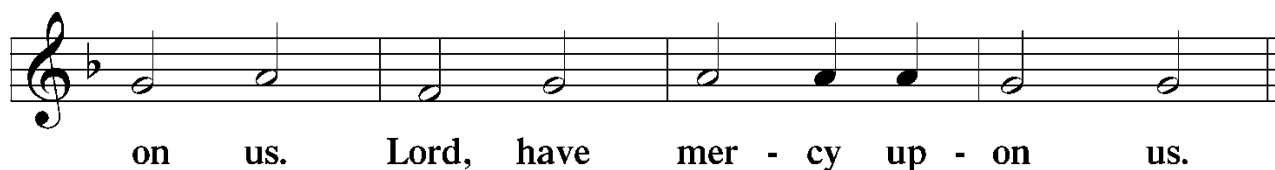
for no one living is righteous before you.



Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

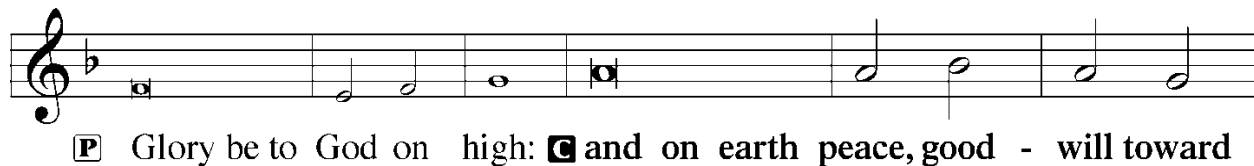
I have fled to you for refuge!

Kyrie



Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

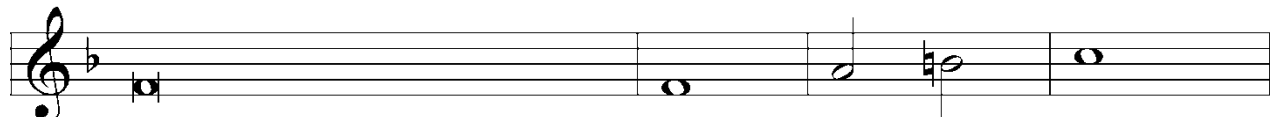




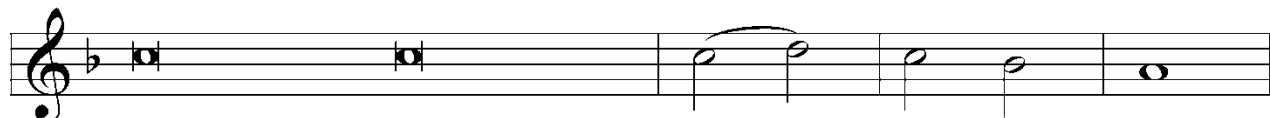
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



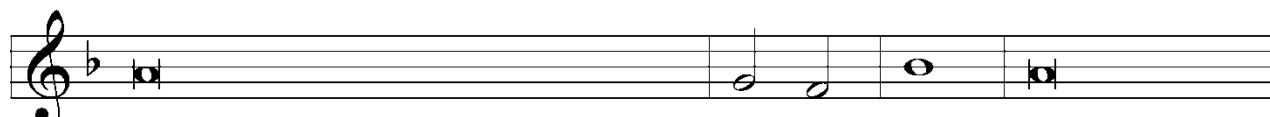
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.



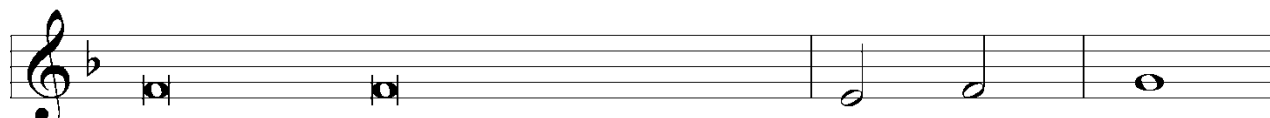
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



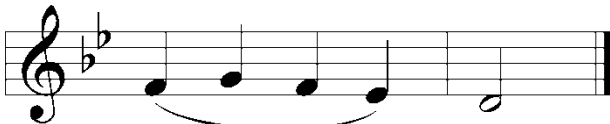
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

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 A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As 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. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The 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. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why 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; ¹¹for it is written,

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

¹²So 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.

Stand. Face the cross as it enters the nave.

Alleluia and Verse

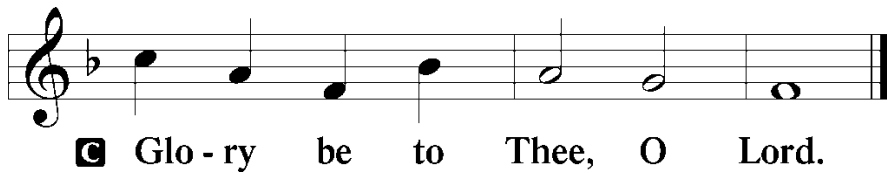
LSB 190



Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

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



²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And 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. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay

the debt. ³¹When 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. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So 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.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

back cover of the hymnal.

Sit

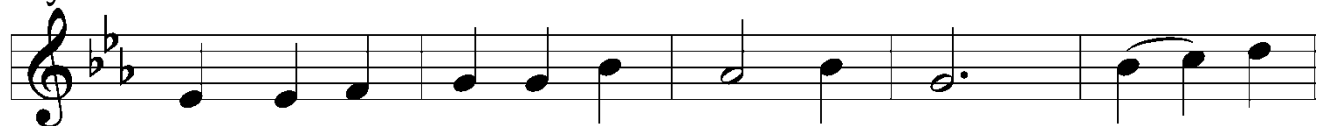
Hymn of the Day | 501 Come Down, O Love Divine

Sermon

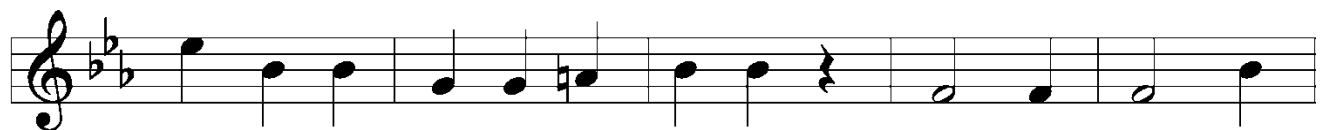
Stand

Offertory

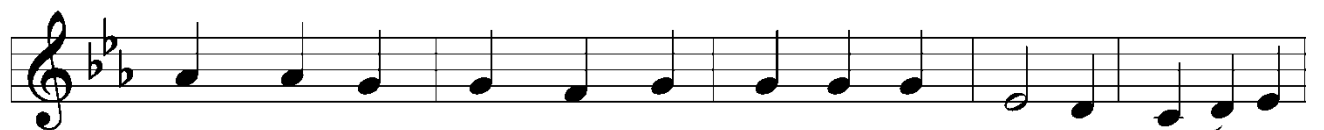
LSB 192



G Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit
The Offering

Stand
The Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do 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 testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit***Distribution****Holy Communion at St. Paul**

Our congregation confesses the bodily presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Altar. To care for those who are about to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, the Altar is open to those baptized Christians who repent of their sins, have been catechized in the Faith, and are members of our congregation, another congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or of another Church body with whom we are in fellowship. If you have not communed in a year or are visiting, please speak with one of our Pastors before communing today. Thank you.

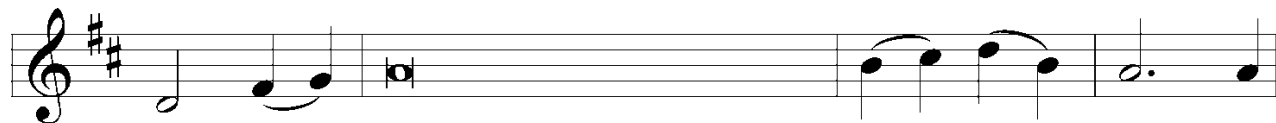
Distribution Hymn | 843 “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”**Distribution Hymn | 628 Your Table I Approach****Distribution Hymn | 851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us***Stand***The Dismissal**

P The holy body and precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the one true faith unto life +everlasting! Depart in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



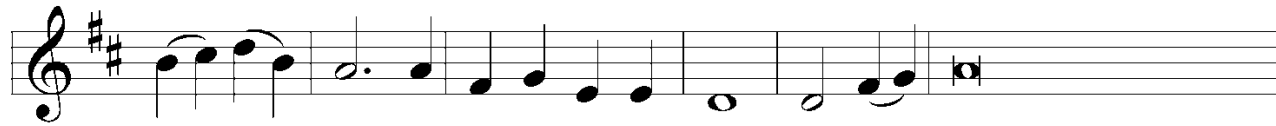
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



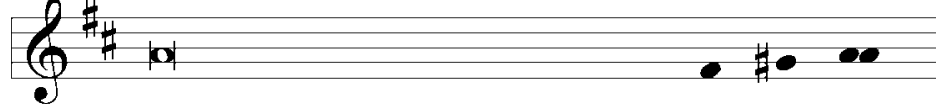
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



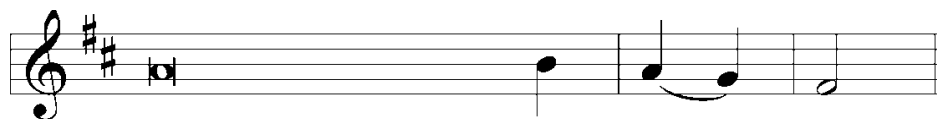
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

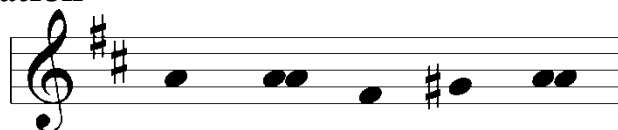
Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation



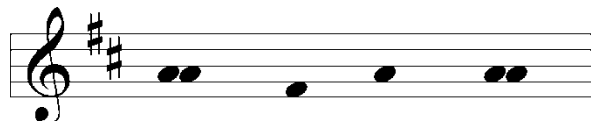
P The Lord be with you.



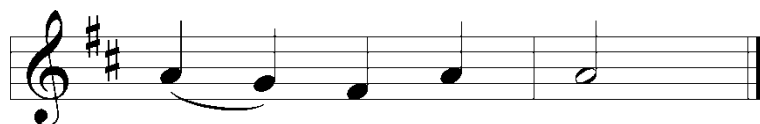
C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



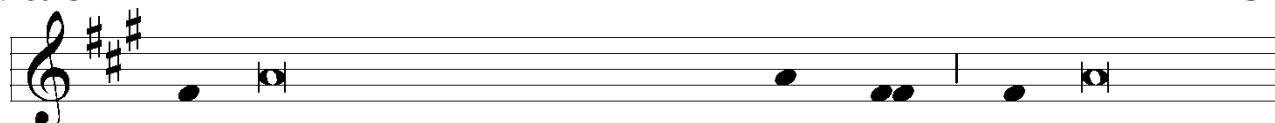
A Bless we the Lord.



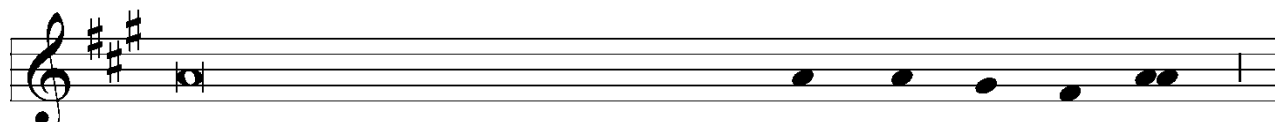
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

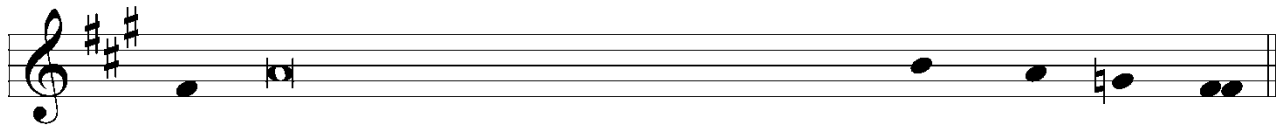
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart | 606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

Forgiving Others...as One Forgiven of God

A Meditation on the Word of God | Matthew 18:21-35

“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

We should give St. Peter credit for this question. Because it shows us that St. Peter is on to something. It shows us how Peter the disciple is learning that Jesus is *merciful*.

Last week we heard our Lord’s whole process for reclaiming a lost sinner for the kingdom of God. Jesus said that if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. And if he repents, then you have gained your brother. If he doesn’t repent, then take one or two witnesses with you, that every charge may be established on the ground of two or three witnesses. And then if he still doesn’t repent, go tell it to the Church.

What’s this all about?

Jesus wants sinners to be found and brought back into his kingdom by way of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Jesus wants forgiveness to be liberally given and liberally received in his Church. His Church is to be, as Luther said, “a mouth-house of forgiveness.” And Peter is on to this. When he asks, “**how often shall I forgive my brother? Seven times?**” This shows that he is on to Lord’s mercy. That he is getting how Jesus is, to put it simply, great in mercy.

Seven times is a lot of forgiveness!

Someone steals your car six times, and you loan it to them a seventh? That takes a lot of mercy! An employee misses work six days; you’ve written them up each time—but you let them come back to work on the seventh day? That takes a lot of forgiveness.

But still, there is an assumption buried in Peter’s question.

The assumption is that there has to be a limit to forgiveness. There has to be some ceiling, as if we tell our offending neighbor, “You can offend me this many times, but once you cross this line, there is no more forgiveness for you. You’ve reached the end of my mercy.”

Scholars debate as to whether Jesus says, 77 times, or 7 times 70 which is 490. That is an unimportant debate, because this is a figure of speech. By whatever number Jesus actually meant, he means, “Forgive always.” Let your forgiveness of your neighbor be *endless*.

Why? *Because God’s forgiveness of you is endless.*

When God forgives you, he doesn’t get out his measuring spoons. He doesn’t take out his measuring cup, as if to tell us, “Every sinner gets precisely two cups of forgiveness, and no more. When that’s finished, no more mercy for you!” And we come back to God like Oliver Twist, saying, “Please sir, can I have some more mercy?” And he says, “You’ve had your share, be gone with you.” No. When God fills your cup with his mercy, he doesn’t measure the five ounces of wine like you see in some restaurants—so meticulous and precise—so as not to give you too much. That’s not how it is with the Lord! When God fills your cup, it “runneth over,” says the Psalmist. Why? Because with the Lord, there is always more. There is always more mercy. There is always more forgiveness. You never reach the end of the Lord’s love toward you. And the Lord is not counting with you either. It is not as if God is up in heaven, keeping track of how many sins you have, and doing calculations as to when enough is enough. That might be how we treat our neighbors, but it is not how God treats us. And so the Lord’s mercy toward us is bottomless, without end. So should our forgiveness be toward our neighbors.

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant is told in direct response to Peter’s question. The King is God. The first servant is a sinner (V24). The debt is ten-thousand talents. This was a huge, insurmountable debt which could never possibly be repaid. Though the servant believed he could pay it: “**Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything**” (V26). We learn here both 1. The enormous debt that our sins incur before God, 2. The self-righteous illusion of our flesh, which believes that our sinful debts to God can be made up by our good works. But the King was having none of the servant’s plans. He simply released the servant and forgave the debt (V27). So has God forgiven us in Christ, freely by grace, with no works of satisfaction required.

But the first servant did not treat his neighbor so mercifully. When his neighbor (V28) owed a comparatively much smaller debt, the servant throttled him, demanding repayment. Hearing this, the King was angry, and threw this first servant in jail until restitution could be made.

The point of the Parable is given in V33, in the form of a question: “**And should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?**” So, God forgives us; we ought to forgive others. It is a Law-parable. But at its heart is the mystery of the Gospel: salvation by grace. If we truly believe that God has forgiven our sins, the Holy Spirit will empower us through the Gospel to go and do likewise. If we do not believe God has really forgiven us, then we will be stingy with forgiveness when it comes to our neighbor. The cure for a resentful, vengeful, bitter heart is hearing the promises of the Gospel. God does not hold your sins against you. He forgives you freely. This sets you free to love your neighbor as God loves you in Christ.

Announcements

St. Paul

+**This Sunday** we return to two services on Sunday mornings at 8AM and 10:15.

+**Bible Class, Sunday School, and Confirmation** Instruction begins today. Pastor Yeager would like to meet with the children in the sanctuary to open Sunday School this year. Before the children head to the classrooms, please have them join us in the Sanctuary.

+**A Confirmation Pre-Meeting** is requested after the 2nd service today. Pastor Yeager would like to discuss with parents and their children expectations, requirements, and overall structure for our year of confirmation. Wyneken 7-8th grade students, and non-Wyneken 6th-8th grade students, are confirmands. If you have a child this age, please join them in the fellowship hall.

+**The Ladies Aid** will be making noodles September 27—October 1st. Any flour donations are gratefully accepted—please place them in the kitchen, and plan to help us make noodles.

+The Endowment Committee meets before our October Voters meeting. If you have any **endowment requests**, please get them in to the Treasurer as soon as you can. Thank you.

+An **LBI representative** for St. Paul is still sought. Talk to Pr. Yeager if interested.

Wyneken

+Wyneken Class of 2028 is hosting a **golf outing** on Sunday, September 20th. Proceeds go to their Washington DC trip. \$75 per player; \$300 per foursome. Check in at 11:00 a.m. Shotgun start at 12:00 p.m. They are also looking for sponsors. Meal tickets only are \$12 each. For more information, contact a student from the class of 2028 or Troy Palacios 260-249-5291. Our Preble 7th graders are: Jude Adams, Molly Baker, Addie Butcher, Hannah Faurote, Keaton Steiner, Mary Yeager.

+**Spooktacular Halloween-Themed 5K Run/Walk**. Sat., Oct 10th at Wyneken. 0.5 Mile run for the kids. Race will be completed through cemetery, grass, and country road. Registration includes T-Shirt, snacks, and water. 5K--\$25; 0.5 mile run—free for 10 and under (\$10 if you want shirt). Race day registration is 3:30-4:15pm. Fun Run 4:30PM. 5K 5PM. Register at bit.ly/WMLSRUN. Must register by September 24th to receive a T-Shirt.

Community

SAVE THE DATE! A Red Cross Blood Drive has been scheduled for **Sunday, September 20**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Zion, Friedheim in their Family Life Center. Go to the following link, <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=zflc> and sign up or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)! If you have any questions, please contact Wava Lichtle (260-701-4360) or Dale Heckman (260-437-4424).

+**Hope Clinic Annual Fundraising Banquets** are Wed September 23 at the Mirage, and Thurs September 24 at the First Mennonite Church, Berne. Doors open 6:15PM, dinner at 7PM. RSVP by September 9 online at hopeclinicfundraiser.net or call 260-223-6132 for tickets.

Prayer of the Church

- +**Those who rejoice:** Randy and Beth Merriman,
on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 9/11/26.
- +**Sick & Recovering:** Joy Hamilton, Troy Gerke.
- +**Our Wyneken School:** teachers, staff, students, childcare.
- +**Expectant mothers:** Kyndal Hall; Jamie Hemsoth; Taylor Selking.
- +**The Homebound:** Laurna Bulmahn, Marilyn Werling, Cindy Gallmeyer, Warren Scheumann, Anita Spiegel, Judy Teague (all at Woodcrest); David Schueler (Ossian Health); Don Haines (home).
- +**Birthdays 9/14—9/20.** Hilton Bluhm, Xadrian Brune, Todd Kolter, Brian Todd, Ethan Brege, Mike Fruchte, Eli Steiner, Lauren Albert, Harmon Bluhm.

Acolytes

9/13 8AM Brantley Seddelmeyer 10:15AM Chase Baker

Attendance

Wednesday 9/2 7PM 22 Sunday 9/6 9AM 168

Stewardship 8/30/26

Offering for the week: \$7,253.00 Online Offering: \$212.00 Total: \$7,465.00
Weekly Goal: \$7,667.00 Vs. YTD Goal: -\$9,047.31

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, Sept. 13	8AM	The Sixteenth Sun. after Petnecost—Divine Service
	9:15AM	Bible Class, Sunday School
	10:15AM	The Sixteenth Sun. after Pentecost—Office of Matins
Wednesday, Sept. 16	11:30AM	Confirmation Instruction (pre-meeting with parents)
	7PM	The Divine Service
Thursday, Sept. 17	7PM	Ladies Aid—Business Meeting
Sunday, Sept. 20	8AM	The Seventeenth Sun. after Pentecost—Matins
	9:15AM	Bible Class, Sunday School
	10:15AM	The Seventeenth Sun. after Pentecost—Divine Service
	11:30AM	Confirmation Instruction
	11AM	Golf Outing