# **Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**September 17, 2023** 

#### I FORGIVE YOU

#### **WELCOME**

Welcome in the name of Christ Jesus. As we worship, we pray that you will open your heart in preparation as our Savior comes to us through the word and sacraments. If you are a guest, please sign your name, address and most importantly your phone number in our Guest Book in the entrance and come and worship with us again. If we can be of



assistance to you in your spiritual walk through life please let us know. We invite you to join us for refreshments after the service in the room adjoining the worship facility.

#### **AS WE GATHER**

This weekend on the Church calendar (September 16), the bishop Cyprian of Carthage is remembered. As a Church leader in the third century, a time of Roman persecution, Cyprian had to deal with the problem of Christians who denied the faith under persecution but later wanted to be restored to the fellowship of the Lord. Cyprian helped craft a response to the situation that was based on forgiveness, allowing a lapsed Christian to be reinstated after a time in which they lived out their restored faithful confession. His own faithfulness unto death was fully demonstrated as he was executed by Roman authorities for his Christian beliefs in AD 258. Speaking words of forgiveness and living them out can come with a price—but is Christlike in every way!

#### **COMMUNION PRACTICE**

Lamb of God celebrates the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see MATTHEW 5:23ff; 10:32ff;18:15-35;26:26-29; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:17-34.

#### **CAUTION**

It is prudent and wise to let our church family know you have broken people sitting around you; this is a place for the broken as Jesus describes in the gospels. We have/may have folks in the congregation that have been alcoholics, drug abusers, spousal abusers, formerly violent and even sexual offenders. This is a house for the broken. We certainly understand that this is a Lamb of God Lutheran Church Ministry and have taken diligent steps to create a safe environment for all who would like to worship our Father.

## A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN



We are very happy that you are here today, whether this is your first or fiftieth time with us. If you need a little help, please ask. There are many people here at Lamb of God who will lend you a hand.

Here are some suggestions to help make worship with your children easier:

**Relax!** Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at Lamb of God.

Please dare to sit toward the front, where your children can easily see the pastor, note the colors, embrace the action at the altar, and wonder at the symbols in the great stained-glass windows. What Jesus does here promises to engage them.

**Explain** the parts of the Divine Service to your children, encouraging them to chime in on their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy! And with your spirit! I believe! Our Father!* All of this belongs to them, too.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn by following your lead.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so – but please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Liturgy, not out (there are soft toys and books in the nursery, and activity sheets with colored pencils in the fellowship hall which can be brought into the worship hall to help engage your child)

**Remember** that the way we nurture children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (LUKE 18:16)

We know that your children are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all.

## + PREPARATION +



**↑ INVOCATION**Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- 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

- L Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
- sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!
- L Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! . . .
- All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."
- L Come and see what God has done:
- He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.
- L Bless our God, O peoples;
- let the sound of His praise be heard.

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



## + WORD +

INTROIT Psalm 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9

- Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
- I have fled to You for refuge!
- L Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
- In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!
- L Enter not into judgment with Your servant,
- for no one living is righteous before You.

  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.
- **L** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
- I have fled to You for refuge!

KYRIE Mark 10:47

- In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- 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.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.



E Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to His people on earth.



## **SALUTATION**

- **I** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- 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

- The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 50.
  - <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>'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. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.
- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM FOR PENTECOST 16**

Psalm 103:1-12; antiphon: v. 13

- L As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.
- Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
- [I] Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,
- who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
- L who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.
- He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.
- The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.
- L He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;
- 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.

EPISTLE Romans 14:1–12

**L** The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 14.

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

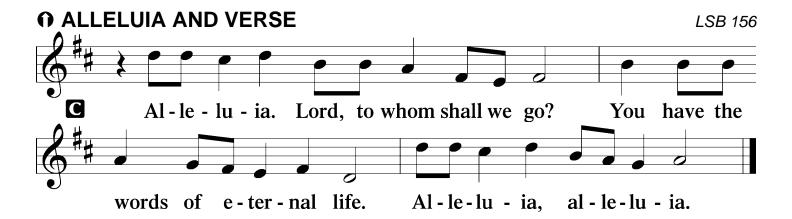
<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup>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; <sup>11</sup>for it is written,

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

<sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

- **I** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:21–35

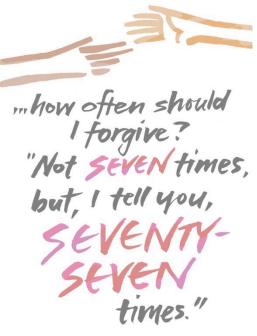
■ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

## **G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>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?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But 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.' <sup>29</sup>So 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. <sup>31</sup>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. 32Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And 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."

- **L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.



Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV



#### **SERMON**

C: 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  $\pm$  of the world to come. Amen.

## **O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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.

- Oh Lord, hear our prayers.
- 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.
- **Oh Lord, hear our prayers.**
- 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.
- **©** Oh Lord, hear our prayers.
- 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.
- **Oh Lord, hear our prayers.**
- 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.







## + SACRAMENT +

#### **O PREFACE**

- The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- L Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### PROPER PREFACE

- It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have come to redeem Your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we are granted all good things by You in countless ways. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your peace and abiding joy, now and forever. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of heaven we praise Your glorious name.
- C Amen.



## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- Elessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness and to assure us of Your fatherly care. Through lives of faith and forgiveness that are directed by Your Holy Spirit, grant that we give evidence of our thankfulness as with joy we anticipate eternal life in Your heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels gather around Your throne expressing their gratitude in endless praise.
- Amen.

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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."



## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- L As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

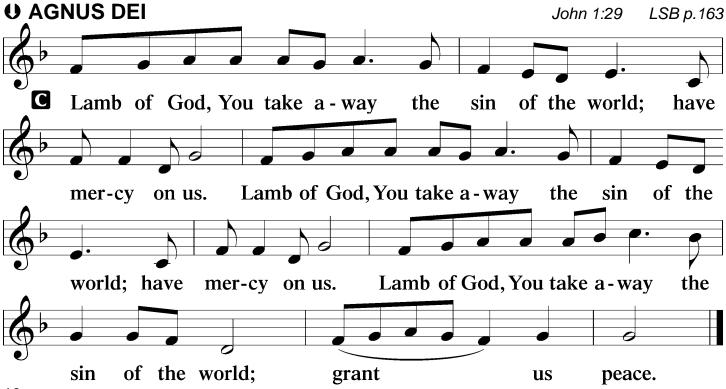
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## **PAX DOMINI**

- The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- G Amen.

## WE SHARE THE PEACE





814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine. For - got - ten in un-thank-ful - ness And with - out prais - es die! 'Tis He that heals thy sick-ness - es And makes thee young a - gain. He that re-deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

- 5 He fills the poor with good; He gives the suff'rers rest.
  The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th'oppressed.
- 6 His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known, But sent the world His truth and grace By His belovèd Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76

Text and tune: Public domain

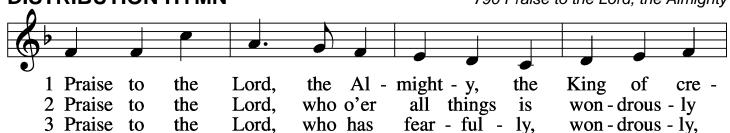




4 Praise to

790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

work and



5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

who will

tion! 0 soul. praise Him, for He is my your And, ea - gle, reign - ing wings of an as on up heed - less - ly Health be - stowed made you, has and, when good fend you; Sure - ly His and mer - cy ness Him! life dore All that has and breath, come now with

pros - per

your



health and sal - va tion! lift sus - tain ing, ing. fall has stayed ing, you. dai ly at - tend you. be - fore prais -Him! es

Lord,

the

Let all who hear
Have you not seen
What need or grief
Pon - der a - new
Let the A - men

Now to His All that is Ev - er has What the Al-Sound from His



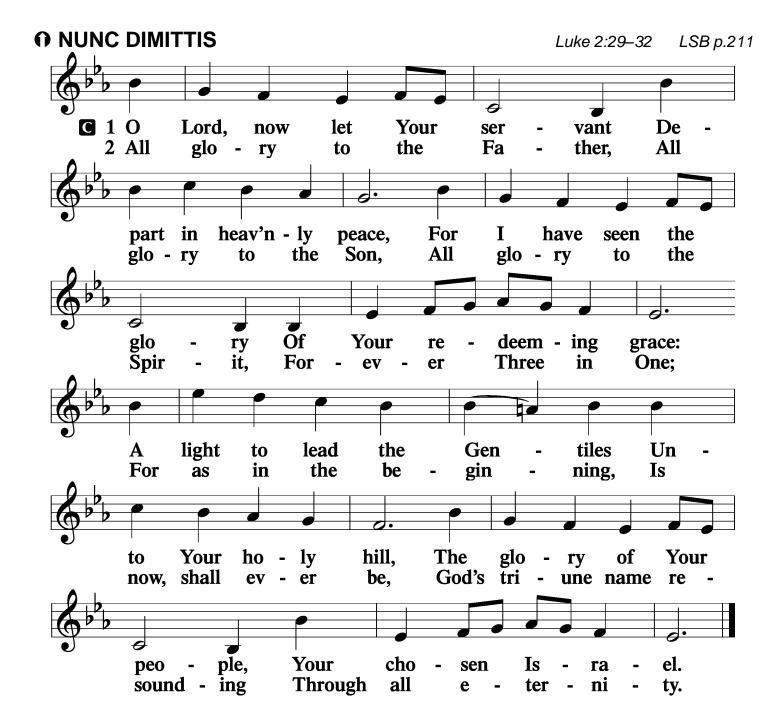
tem - ple draw near, Join - ing glad tion! in ad need - ful has Sent gra - cious been by His or - dain ing? mer - cy failed of re - lief? Wings of His did shade you. with His He might - y do As love be - friends can you. a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him! peo - ple

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund

Text and tune: Public domain





## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

- Let us pray: Grant, O Lord, that what we have received with our lips we may keep with pure hearts, and that, through the gift imparted to us, in this present life we be guided in ways of peace and may hereafter receive life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- C Amen.

#### **O** ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24–26

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.



Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-76

Text and tune: Public domain

## DISMISSAL

- Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Amen!  $\mathbf{C}$