



Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost
September 13, 2026

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

L: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ, Amen.

L: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Tag

Worship Your holy name, Lord I'll worship Your holy name

Ending

Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name

GREETING

L: 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

Leader: In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

REFRAIN: ALL

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Chri-ste e-lei-son. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us.

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: 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. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. *(to Refrain)*

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ALL:

A-men. A-men. *rit.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

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, ¹⁷'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. 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: Word of God, Word of Life:

C: Thanks, be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

L: The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

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

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus 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. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ 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.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his lord summoned him

and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.’³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Reverend Bethany Ketchem

SONG OF THE DAY

Where Charity and Love Prevail, ELW 359



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church those in need and all of God's creation...

Each petition ends with:

L: Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: ...All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PEACE

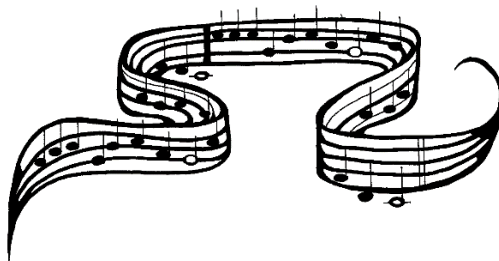
L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Give Thanks/Now Thank We All Our God, arr. Joel Raney

Jeremy Mattson, Piano



OFFERING RESPONSE

Create In Me a Clean Heart O God

[illegible]

and put a new and right spir - it with-in me.

Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, —

And do not take_ your ho - ly spir - it from me._____

Re - turn to me the joy of your sal - va - tion.

Sus - tain a new — and will - ing spir it with in — me. —

and put a new and right _____ spir - it with - in _____ me. _____

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING

L: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen

L: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen

L: The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING SONG

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil, ELW 721

Good-ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;
light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is
ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is
ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

DISMISSAL

L: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Missions Team

As we head into fall and consider the harvest season, we thank the Lord for all His blessings upon us. The Missions Team is holding a Fall Harvest Food Drive to support the North St. Paul Food Shelf. Please bring your shelf stable foods to church for collection from September 13-October 11. If you're not sure what to get, consider protein that comes in cans (beans and meats are always in need), rice, pasta, soups, and so on. Oftentimes, people with food insecurity are unable to splurge on things for celebrations, so a box cake mix, candles, etc. are nice to get. Vegetable oil, soy sauce, hot sauce and ketchup are also items in constant demand. Anything you contribute will be greatly appreciated!

Jan, Jessica, Judy, and Pastor Bethany

Alley Shoppe - no donations will be taken from the public: Certain items will be accepted by the volunteers if in good condition (blenders, toasters, mixers, tea pots, coffee pots, lamps, full/queen/king sheets and blankets, quilts, towels and silverware).

Prayers & Praises of the People:

- Prayers for Sharon Peterson as she continues to recover.
- Prayers for Kathi Kirchoff: prayers for her continued treatment.
- Prayers for healing for Judy Koza.

A note on our new liturgy:

“Behold, I Make All Things New” was written by Ben Splichal Larson. Ben was killed in the Haiti Earthquake on January 12, 2010, when he was there with his wife, Renee, and his cousin, Jon. Ben sang the “Lamb of God” while buried in the rubble and then died. It was Ben’s intention, and now his family’s prayer, that the music he wrote to the ancient worship language of the church be a catalyst for renewal, hope, and faith for people and congregations. In the spirit of Ben, we give his liturgy to the Church with joy and pray it may bless all who sing it.

Participants in Today’s Service

Pastor	Rev. Bethany Ketchem
Worship & Music Director	Jeremy Mattson
Director of Choir and Handbells	Alex Carlson
Soundboard & Livestream	Beth Renfors
Lector	Jim Burke

Lessons for next September 20:

Jonah 3:10—4:11 and Matthew 20:1-16

Next week’s lector: Jane Koza



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