



September 13, 2026

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

- ♪ Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.
- ~Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!
- ♪ Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ~Great...
- ♪ Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! ~Great....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 809—Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960; Text: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

A Time of Silence

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

- ♪ My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine,
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
- ♪ I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
- ♪ I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death,
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath;
And say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow, “If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.”
- ♪ In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow, “If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.”

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 364 -Text: William R Featherston 1848-1875;
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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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The 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. ⁸For 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. 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; ¹¹ for 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

♪ From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator’s praise arise: Alleluia, alleluia!

Let the Redeemer’s name be sung Through ev’ry land by ev’ry tongue.

~Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

♪ Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more. Alleluia,...

Please Stand

♪ All praise to God the Father be, All praise eternal Son, to Thee. Alleluia, alleluia!

Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore: Alleluia,....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 816 - Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748, vv. 1-2; William W. How 1823-97, v. 3; Public domain.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21–35

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Then Peter came up and said to him, “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-seven times.

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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

♪ Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise,

While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love,

Teach me ever to adore Thee; May I still Thy goodness prove.

- ♪ Here I raise my Ebenezer*, Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.
- ♪ Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above.
- ♪ Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.

*"Ebenezer" means "Thus far has the Lord helped us" and was the name given to the stone of remembrance. 1 Samuel 7:12
Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 686-Text: Robert Robinson 1735-90; Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

"The Bumblebee Effect"

Matthew 18:21–35

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"O Bless the Lord, My Soul"

- ♪ O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.
- ♪ O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness And without praises die!
- ♪ 'Tis He forgives thy sins; 'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.
- ♪ He crowns thy life with love When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.
- ♪ He fills the poor with good; He gives the suff'ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th' oppressed.
- ♪ His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace By His beloved Son.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 814-Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Public domain.

Postlude