



September 17, 2023

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

- ♪ What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!
- ♪ Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness- Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- ♪ Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 770 - Text: Joseph M. Scriven 1819-86; Tune: Charles C. Converse 1832-1918;  
Setting: The Hymn Book 1971; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Invocation

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

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**Sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! . . .

**All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”**

Come and see what God has done:

**He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.**

Bless our God, O peoples;

**Let the sound of His praise be heard.**

*Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-5, 8*

## 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.

**Amen.**

**Kyrie Please Be Seated**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

**The Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, You are always ready to hear the prayers of Your people. Grant that we may with all boldness and courage bring to You our petitions with the assurance that for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ You will hear them, forgiving our trespasses and granting us Your guidance in this life and every blessing in the life to come. This we ask through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

Genesis 50:15–21

<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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Epistle**

Romans 14:1–12

<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<sup>[a]</sup> 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>For 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn Please Stand**

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

- ♩ Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross. Lift high His royal banner;  
It must not suffer loss. From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead  
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.
- ♩ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey; Stand forth in mighty conflict  
In this His glorious day. Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.
- ♩ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone. The arm of flesh will fail you,  
Ye dare not trust your own. Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.  
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.
- ♩ Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long; This day the din of battle,  
The next the victor's song. The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see  
And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 660 -Text: George Duffield, Jr. 1818-88; Tune: George J. Webb 1803-87;  
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

**Holy Gospel**

Matthew 18:21–35

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

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

<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.’<sup>30</sup> He 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.<sup>32</sup> Then 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.<sup>35</sup> So 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.**

## **Nicene Creed**

### **Children's Message Please Be Seated**

#### **The Hymn**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

- ♪ Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.
- ♪ Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 790 - Text: Joachim Neander 1650-80; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78;  
Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang Buchs, Stalsund 1665; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## **Proclamation of the Word**

“Life Altering Forgiveness”

Genesis 50:15–21

## **Offering and Musical Offering**

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

Lord, in Your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

## Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Colossians 3:1*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*Psalm 136*

## Proper Preface

### Sanctus Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (vv. 1 & 2)

♪ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

♪ Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Words of Our Lord

#### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

#### Agnus Dei Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Lamb of God”

♪ Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to be called the Lamb of God.

~O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God!

♪ Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:  
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. ~O Lamb....

♪ I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. ~O Lamb....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550 -Text & Tune: Twila Paris b.1958;  
©1985 Straighway Music; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

### Distribution Hymn

“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

♪ I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:

~Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

♪ Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. ~Lord....

- ♩ Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet Thou Thy Lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art. ~Lord,....
- ♩ Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;  
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now Thy guest. ~Lord,....
- ♩ What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. ~Lord,....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 618 - Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder 1677-1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal 1941;  
©1941 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Benediction

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.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

“When Peace Like a River”

- ♩ When peace, like a river, attendeth my way When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
~It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.
- ♩ Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul. ~It...
- ♩ He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ~It...
- ♩ And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul. ~It....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 763-Text: Horatio G. Spafford 1828-88;  
Tune: Philip P. Bliss 1838-76; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Postlude