**Faith & First**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## ~ September 17, 2023 ~

**Gathering**

 **Welcome & Announcements**

**\* Confession & Forgiveness** WOV pg. 10

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

 ***C: Amen.***

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

 ***C: Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

 P: Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

 ***C: Amen.***

***\** Entrance Hymn *“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”*** LBW #448 *ELW #779*

Vs. 1Amazing grace!– how sweet the sound– that

 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but

 now am found; was blind, but now I see.

 Vs. 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and

 grace my fears relieved; how precious did that

 grace appear the hour I first believed!

 Vs. 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I

 have already come; 'tis grace has brought me

 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

 Vs. 4 The Lord has promised good to me; his

 word my hope secures; he will my shield and

 portion be as long as life endures.

 Vs. 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright

 shining as the sun, we've no less days to

 sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

 **Greeting** *WOV pg. 28*

P: 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***WOV pg. 28*

 L: Kyrie eleison:

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

 L: Christe eleison:

 ***C: Christ, have mercy.***

 L: Kyrie eleison:

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

**\* Hymn of Praise** *WOV pg.29*

 Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

 Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

 Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

 Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

 Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

 Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone

are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

 Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

 Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth,

 And peace to God’s people on earth.

**\* Prayer of the Day**

 P: O Lord God,

***C: 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. Amen.***

**Word**

**First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21**

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

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.

**Psalm 103: 1-13**

1Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**2Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

3who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

**4who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy; LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy.**

5who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**6O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

7You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

**8LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy.**

9you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

**10You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

11For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**12As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgres- sions from us.**

13As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy.**

**Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

1Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 2Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. 4Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. 5Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. 7We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? 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 give praise to God." 12So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**\* Gospel Acclamation** *WOV pg. 31*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

**\* Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

21Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28But 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.' 29Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

 **Sermon**

 **Hymn of the Day *“Bind Us Together”*** WOV #748

***Refrain: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that***

 ***Cannot be broken. Bind us together, Lord,***

 ***Bind us together, Lord; bind us together in love.***

Vs.1 There is only one God. There is only one King.

 There is only one Body; that is why we can sing; ***(Refrain)***

Vs. 2 You are the fam’ly of God. You are the promise divine.

 You are God’s chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. ***(Refrain)***

\* **Apostles’ Creed** *WOV pg. 33*

 I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was bur ied; he descended to the dead.\*

 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

 the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**\* The Prayers**

  ***Lord, listen to your children praying,*** *WOV #775*

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy (*especially*).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

 ***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

**Meal**

 **Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

 ***C: And also with you.***

**\* Offering *“Let the vineyards”*** *WOV pg. 35*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

 blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

 that we may be fed with the bread of life.

 Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we

 offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord,

 and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**\* Offering Prayer**

P: Merciful God,

***C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given to us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**\* Great Thanksgiving** *WOV pg. 36*P: The Lord be with you.

 ***C: And also with you.***

 P: Lift up your hearts.

 ***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

 P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 ***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**\* Words of Institution** *WOV pg. 36*

 P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

***C: Amen.***

**\* Lord’s Prayer** *WOV pg. 39*

***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.***

 **Communion Distribution**

**\*Communion Blessing**

 P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his

 grace.

 ***C: Amen.***

**\* Canticle** *WOV Pg. 40*

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell every-

one what God has done. Let all who seek the

Lord rejoice and bear Christ’s holy name.

Send us with your promises, O God,

and lead us forth in joy with shouts

Of thanksgiving. Alleluia.

**\* Prayer** WOV Pg. 41

P:Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. ***C: Amen.***

 **Sending**

**\* Blessing** WOV Pg. 41

 P: Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

 **C: Amen.**

# Sending Hymn *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”* LBW #439 *ELW #742*

Vs.1 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!

Vs. 2 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.

Vs. 3 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 your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; You wilt find a solace there.

**\* Dismissal**

 L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

 ***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***