

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## Sunday, September 17, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

**GATHERING:** *The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

† *Please stand as you are able*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### † CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**



we start with **Christ**

In our *Serving*

In our *Caring*

In our *Growing*

**Sunday Worship 9:00 am** (in person + online), followed by fellowship hour

*Please visit us at [www.christianialutheranchurch.org](http://www.christianialutheranchurch.org)*

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

### †**GATHERING SONG**    *As We Gather at Your Table*

(1) As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.

Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

(2) Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.

Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

(3) Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.

There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

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### †**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

### †**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

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**WORD: *God speaks to us in Scriptures read,  
sung and preached.***

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**STORY TIME**

**BLESSING OF BACKPACKS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

**READING: Romans 14:1-12**

*<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those 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. <sup>4</sup>Who 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.*

*<sup>5</sup>Some 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. <sup>6</sup>Those 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.*

*<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <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, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*

*<sup>10</sup>Why 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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,*

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

*<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

### †GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:21-35

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, 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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON: Pastor Jon Rhodes**

## **SONG OF THE DAY**    *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

(1) Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.

(2) With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.

(3) Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
as members of each body joined, in him we are made one.

(4) Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.

(5) Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

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## **†APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 buried;  
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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

## **†SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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***MEAL: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.***

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## **OFFERING**

### **†OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty, **all things belong to you.**  
**We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.**  
**Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

### **†WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **†LORD'S PRAYER** *(Traditional)*

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*

(1) Let us break bread to-gether on our knees;  
let us break bread to-gether on our knees.

*Refrain:* When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing sun,  
O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

(2) Let us drink wine to-gether on our knees;  
let us drink wine to-gether on our knees. *Refrain*

(3) Let us praise God to-gether on our knees;  
let us praise God to-gether on our knees. *Refrain*

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**SENDING: *The Triune God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.***

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### †SENDING BLESSING

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### †SENDING SONG *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

(1) Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;  
so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.

(2) To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.

(3) There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God who made us all.

(4) Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.

(5) For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.

Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

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## †DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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