

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

9:15 AM Worship Lite

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Kris Adams **Acolyte:** Caitlyn Helm

Ushers: Stephen Peterson

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

We do love to judge one another. Today in the gospel reading, instead of judging one another Jesus challenges us to forgive one another seventy times seven times. That's what God does. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship God is also challenging us to go out into the world and forgive. That is the only way there will ever be peace.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Take My Life and Let It Be" Mallan/Cota
First Class Ringers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross

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

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ. With Jesus there is only forgiveness. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING SONG: “All Are Welcome” #641 ELW vss. 1, 2 & 5

**Vs. 1: Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

**Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Vs. 2: Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain...***

**vs. 5: Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain...***

GREETING

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.

LITANY

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE: “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#886 ELW vss. 1, 3 & 6

Vs. 1: Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!

Vs. 3: The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in the sinners ears, brings life and health and peace.

Vs. 6: To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” #172 ELW

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Sit

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

Narrator: ²¹ At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask,

Peter (Men and Boys): Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?

Jesus (Women and Girls): Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

Narrator: Jesus continued with a story. “The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn’t pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market. ²⁶⁻²⁷ “The poor wretch threw himself at the king’s feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt. “The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’ ²⁹⁻³¹ “The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king. ³²⁻³⁵ “The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S WORD

THE WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE WORD: "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" #774 ELW

**Vs. 1: What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Refrain: Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Vs. 2: Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
 leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 3: What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
 leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain...***

Sit

HOLY BAPTISM #227 ELW (*front of hymnal*)

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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 SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY: "Interstellar" Ben Foltz

OFFERING: "Make Me a Servant"

Make me a servant, humble and meek
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be
Make me a servant
Make me a servant
Make me a servant today

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

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

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing" Löhner/Dahl