Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13 , 2026

Prelude *God Is So Good* (arr. Emma Lou Diemer)
Masako Bacon, organ

Welcome

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C Amen.

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

Kneel or Sit

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, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* (ELW 835, verses 1-4)

1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Greeting

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

C And also with you.

Hymn of Praise



Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Merciful judge,

C 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.

First Reading Genesis 50:15-21

15 Realizing 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?" 16 So 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. 18 Then
his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." 19 But Joseph
said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 20 Even 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. 21 So
have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them,
speaking kindly to them.

R Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 103:8-13



[8] Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
[9] **you will not al- | ways accuse us,**
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever. **R**
[10] You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
[11] **For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,**
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
[12] As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
[13] **As a father has compassion | for his children,**
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord. R

Second Reading Romans 14:1-12

[1] Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. [2] Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. [3] 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. [4] Who are you to pass judgment on slaves 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. [5] 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. [6] Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. [7] For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. [8] 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. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. [10] 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. [11] For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." [12] So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

R Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Jenna Troutman, guest preacher

Hymn of the Day *Our Father, We Have Wandered* (ELW 606)

1 Our Father, we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling,
we rise with fear and shame,
as, distant but compelling,
we hear you call our name.

2 And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning
with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.

3 O Lord of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
and ever-caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.

Apostles' Creed

P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C 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

P Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

After each petition, respond with, ***"Your mercy is great."***

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs) Recent concerns: Ruby Augustine, Julius Swen, Jane Zatechka & Velda Schmidt, Mary Phelan, Juli Johnson, Hilda Torres. *Those with ongoing concerns:* Cynthia Holt, Jan Christensen, Jeanette Metteer, Tom Hoeft, Terry Lander, Mary Brass, Vern Westberg, Michael Dalton & Beth Strasheim. *Those who are part of our homebound community:* Sylvia Kempf, M. Joyce Hansen, Betty Miller, Dennis Schuster, Rod Price, De Hansen, & Margrett Wehland.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

Peace of Christ is Shared

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

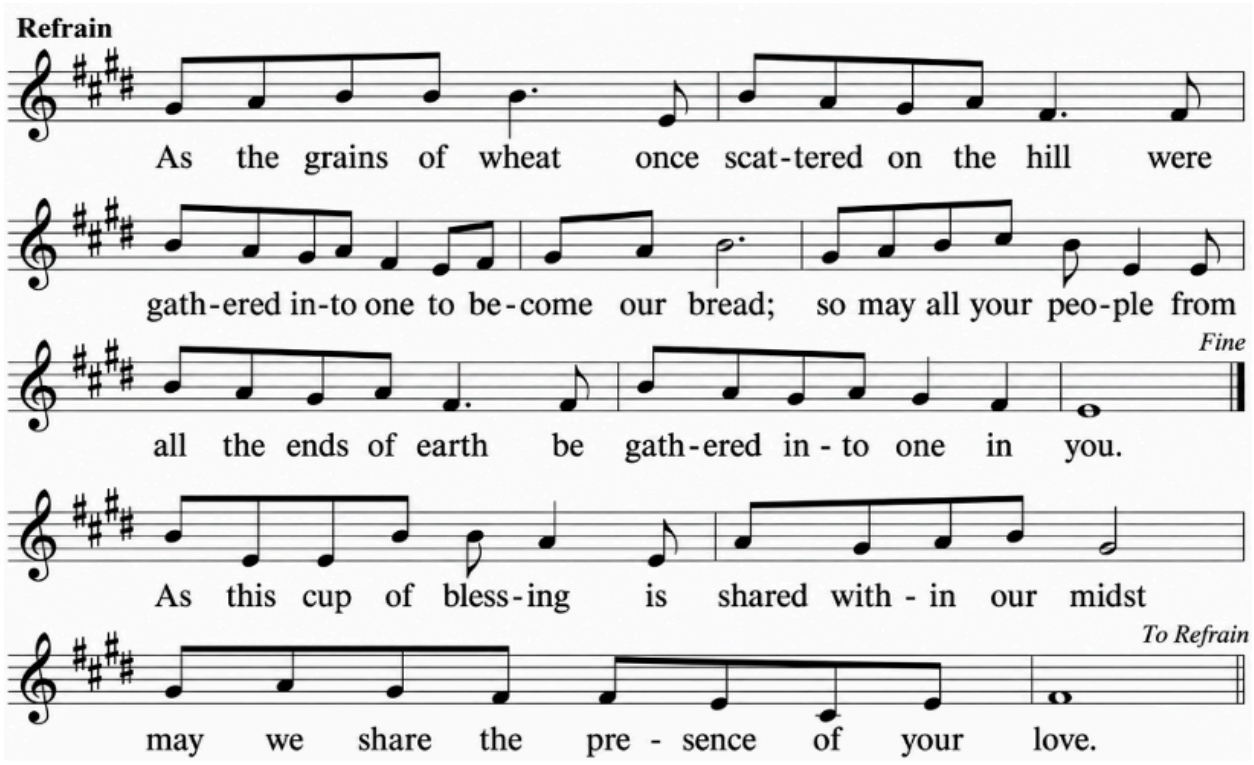
Music Offering *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (arr. Hayes/Gaspard)
Boyd & Masako Bacon, piano & organ

Musical Offering response:

P To God be the glory.

C Amen.

Offertory Hymn



Offertory Prayer

P Let us pray. God of all creation,

C all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

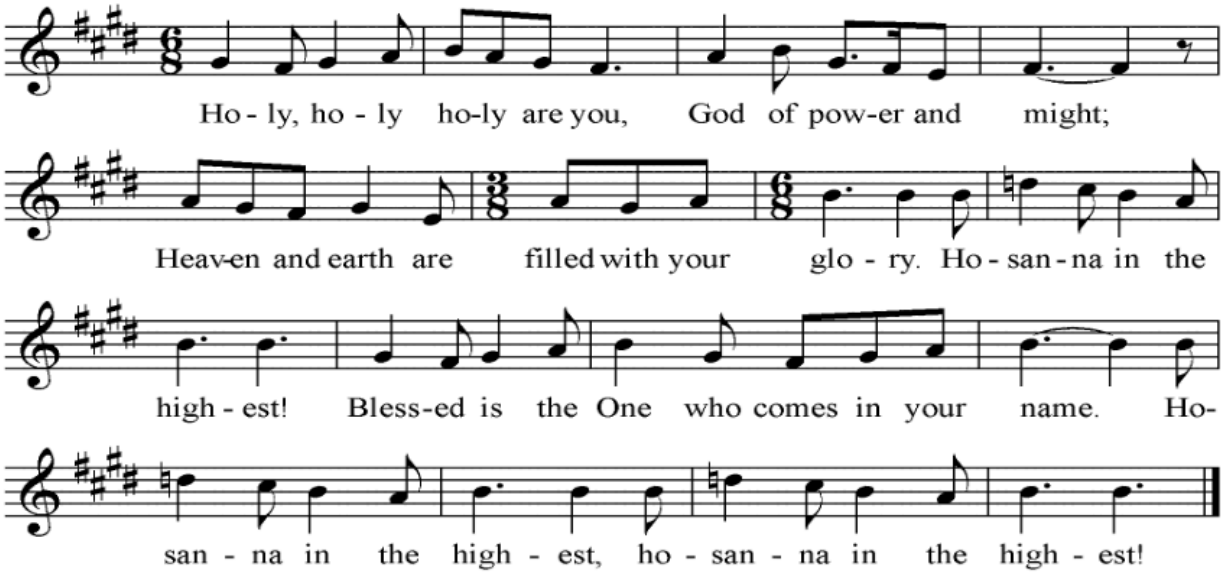
P Lift up your hearts.

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.

P It is indeed… *(here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy God, Mighty Lord, Gracious Father… all your saints in light.

C Amen.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

P We pray in confidence in the words Jesus gave us:

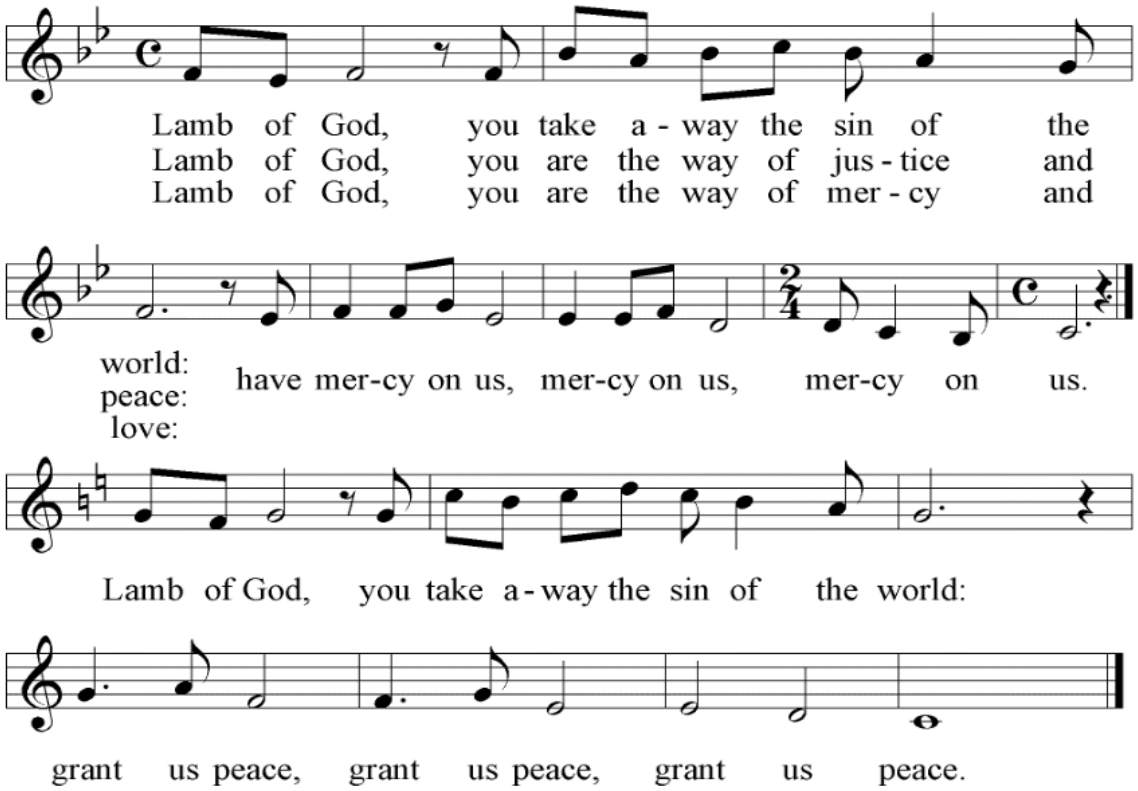
C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

P Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come to the feast!

C Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God



Communion Music *At the Table of the Lord* (Angerman/Martin)
Adult Choir

Communion Hymns *I Come with Joy* (ELW 482)

1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

3 **As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,**
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4 **The Spirit of the risen Christ,**
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5 **Together met, together bound**
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (ELW 588)

1 **There's a wideness in God's mercy,**
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.

2 **There is welcome for the sinner,**
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

3 **For the love of God is broader**
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

4 **'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;**
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

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

C Amen.

Prayer After Communion

P Let us pray. Sustaining God,

C with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P The God of love draw you into 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.

Sending Hymn *Now Thank We All Our God* (ELW 840)

1 Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Preambulum in F (Vincent Lübeck)
Masako Bacon, organ

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger
(On Sabbatical through Sept. 26, 2026)
Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing
Visitation Pastor: Ron Drury
Guest Preacher: Jenna Troutman
Cantor: Bryce Anderson
Livestreaming: Kathleen Simley

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