

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 21 & 24, 2023

**The Season** After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

**The Sunday** Anytime we try to imitate God, we quickly realize our inadequacy. Yet today God tells us to model our forgiveness on his: a boundless, free, and loving forgiveness based on the sacrifice of Christ. How could our sinful hearts ever forgive like that? The Prayer of the Day asks that the mercy and grace of God precede us and follow after us, that we might love God with undivided hearts—hearts always ready to forgive as God does: sins are forgiven, forgotten, forever. *The Church forgives as God forgives.*

### Opening Hymn

*Before You, God the Judge of All* CW 306



1 Be - fore you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I  
2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in  
3 O Je - sus, let your pre - cious blood Be to my soul a



hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,  
wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,  
cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,



My sins of thought and deed and word. They press me  
But let him draw to you my heart That tru - ly  
But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my



sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.

Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) atr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

### Stand

**M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** And also with you.



**MORRISON  
ZION  
LUTHERAN**

Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to

**Glorify God**  
as we  
**Gather**

around the Gospel  
to help people

**Grow**

in the Gospel  
and

**Go**

with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank  
God that you have  
joined us at worship  
today.

Restrooms are  
located in the  
basement. Hearing  
loop headphones and  
Large Print Hymnals  
are available from an  
usher.

If your children  
need to leave worship,  
please take them to  
the basement. A TV  
broadcasts the service  
in the basement.

Today we gather  
together in the  
presence of God. He is  
present among us in a  
special way through  
his Word and  
Sacrament. We  
acknowledge our sin  
and rejoice in the  
good news of  
forgiveness through  
the life and death of  
Christ. This is the  
focus of our worship.

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## CONFESSION OF SINS

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M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

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## PRAYER AND PRAISE

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### Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: **Amen**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

### O Lord, Our Lord

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,". The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a triplet of eighth notes in the second line.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,

you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;

you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and

ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,

but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

## Prayer of the Day

**M:** Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

### **Be Kind by Linda Moeller**

4K - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Be kind to one another, forgiving each other,  
This is what our God would have us do.  
To parents, friends and neighbors, to sisters and brothers,  
Show the love that Jesus showed to you.

How much our God must love us! He sent us another;  
This is what our God would have us do.  
Be kind to one another, forgiving each other,  
Just as God forgives us every day.

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## THE WORD

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### **First Lesson:**

### **Genesis 50:15-21**

How hard it is to forgive like God! We may forgive someone who hurts us, but we never forget. We harbor that hurt deep inside of us for years—never understanding that we are locking ourselves in the prison of the past. Joseph's brothers feared that they would finally have to pay for what they did to Joseph. His father was gone; he was still in charge in Egypt; and the brothers thought that they were going to face Joseph's vengeance. As repentant sinners, we often act like the brothers and wait for God to get even with us for our past sins. Shame on us! We are making God as shallow as we are! In God's eyes our sins are forgiven, forgotten, forever. Joseph wept at their words as he remembered the sordid history and all the emotions that came with it. He wept, but he was free from the prison of the past; he had forgiven his brothers their terrible deeds. Through his tears, Joseph never wavered, but he calmed his brothers' fears, forgave them like God forgives, and set them free from their prison of the past.

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. (NIV)



## Second Lesson

## Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Paul commands us not to act like the unmerciful servant, but rather: “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.” The Church is comprised of people who have been sealed for redemption, so let’s act like it! Not only kindness and compassion, but forgiveness is the primary mark of the Christian. We forgive because God forgave us in Christ. That makes us imitators of God. Every Old Testament sacrificial victim pointed ahead to the death of Christ, the fragrant offering and the atoning sacrifice that won our forgiveness and inspires our forgiveness for others.

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **5** <sup>1</sup> Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (NIV)

## Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.  
Alleluia. (Romans 15:4)

*Stand*

## Gospel

## Matthew 18:21-35

"The human animal is not...good at forgiveness. Forgiveness is not some innate, natural human emotion. It is natural for the human animal to defend itself, to snarl and crouch into a defensive position when attacked, to howl when wronged, to bite back when bitten. Forgiveness is not natural." (Willimon) Forgiveness must be learned, and Peter thought he had figured it out. From the elders of the Jews Peter had heard: “If a man transgresses one time, forgive him. If a man transgresses two times, forgive him. If a man transgresses three times, forgive him. If a man transgresses four times, do not forgive him.” Three times, the elders said, was the limit of forgiveness for a good Jew. Peter, however, was willing to go much further; not three times, but seven times, Peter thought with a smile. Until Jesus said, “Not seven times, Peter, seventy times seven— what the elders say doesn’t matter. I say to you that your forgiveness should have no limit, but be like God’s.” Jesus’ parable contrasts the forgiveness of God and our own unforgiving nature. The servant’s debt— by any measure of calculation—was impossibly high (perhaps 200,000 years’ wages). Who could have accrued such a debt? Who could ever repay? What an arresting picture of our debt of sin before God! The greatness of the debt magnifies the compassion of the king who wipes the debt away. Who can comprehend the forgiveness of God? Certainly not unmerciful servants like us, who refuse to forgive the small debts owed to us, and instead, inflict on our fellow servants the punishments that God should rightly have given us. Have mercy on us, Lord, and teach us to forgive like you!

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup>“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ <sup>27</sup>The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup>“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

<sup>29</sup>“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

<sup>30</sup>“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup>“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ <sup>34</sup>In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup>“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

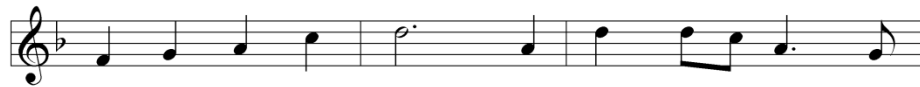
*Be Seated*

**Hymn**

*Forgive our Sins as We Forgive CW 493*



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” You  
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless The  
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The  
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And



taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can  
 un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and  
 truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are  
 bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.  
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 owed to us; How great our debt to you!  
 bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: DETROIT (CM) *A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony*, Harrisonburg, 1820.

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be Seated*

**Offering**

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

**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.**

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don’t feel a necessity to give an offering today.  
*“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).*

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**THE SACRAMENT**

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**M:** The Lord be with you.

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

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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



## Proper Preface

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## Holy, Holy, Holy

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.  
You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.  
I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -  
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.  
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of six staves of music in a single system, all written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some phrases being repeated. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

## Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

## O Christ, Lamb of God

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be Seated*

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close communion. WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor before communing. If you would like to learn more about communing with us in the future, please contact pastor.

## Distribution

### Distribution Hymn

*Not Unto Us* CW 392

1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry,  
 2 A - maz - ing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were  
 3 O faith - ful love— that shep - herd - ed through faith - less  
 4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry,  
 Lord; Not un - to us but to your name be praise;  
 made; A - maz - ing grace— that sent your Son to save;  
 years; For - giv - ing love— that led us to your truth;  
 Lord, For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.



Not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be  
A - maz - ing grace— that robed us in your right - eous -  
Un - yield - ing love— that would not let us turn from  
A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and



giv'n For match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.  
ness And taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.  
you But sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.  
done, And pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93, alt. © 1975 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: NOT UNTO US (12 10 13 10) Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93. © 1975 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved.  
Used by permission.

*Stand*

## Thank The Lord



**C:** Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**M:** Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

*Be Seated*

## Closing Hymn

*Blessed Are They, Forever Blest* CW 383



1 Bless - ed are they, for - ev - er blest,  
2 Bless - ed are they to whom the Lord  
3 From guile their hearts and lips are free;  
4 How glo - rious is that right - eous - ness



Whose guilt is par - doned by their God,  
Im - putes not their in - iq - ui - ty.  
Their hum - ble joy, their ho - ly fear  
That hides and can - cels all their sins,



Whose sins with sor - row are con - fessed  
They plead no mer - it or re - ward  
With deep re - pent - ance well a - gree  
While bright the ev - i - dence of grace



And cov - ered with their Sav - ior's blood.  
And not on works but grace re - ly.  
And join to prove their faith sin - cere.  
Through all their lives ap - pears and shines!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT (LM) *Andächtige Haus-Kirche*, Nürnberg, 1676, alt.