

September 13, 2026 +Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the Holy Spirit so all may know God's love.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God, **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.**

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. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Opening Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

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.**

First Reading – Genesis 50:15-21 *Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

Response: Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 103:8-13 *Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy.*

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
**you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

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

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

As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
**As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you,
O Lord.**

Gospel – Matthew 18: 15-20 *Reconciliation in the community of faith*

Before: The holy Gospel according to . . . **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After: The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Message

Pastor Liz Rossing

Hymn of the Day

“God, We Gather As your People”

1. God, we gather as your people to raise our song above, and we dare to claim the promise of your love. Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be, when your children will be free.

Refrain

Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide. May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside. For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong. May that welcome be our song.

2. Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free; and we sing for generations yet to be, that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest. Refrain

3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame, so afraid of who they are and whom they love. May the message now be banished that your love is for the few; may their faith in you renew. Refrain

4. God, we're working for the future when children far and wide can...live their lives with dignity and pride. As they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand, as against all hate we stand.

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the People

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Offering & Giving Prayer

God of creation, **you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

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

Blessing

The God of love draw us into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant us strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ✠ bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, ever more God's praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!

2. God be praised for grace and favor to our forebears in distress. God be praised, the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

3. Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone; but as mortals rise and perish God endures unchanging on. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the great eternal One!

4. Angels sing in adoration, in God's presence, face to face. Sun and moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

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