

Divine Service, Setting Three
The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
13 September 2026

Pre-Service Music

Ringing of the Bells

Call to Worship

OPENING HYMN: ♪"JESUS SINNERS DOTH RECEIVE"

LSB 609

- 1 Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
 And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

- 2 We deserve but grief and shame,
 Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
 Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

- 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray
 No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
 Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

- 4 I, a sinner, come to Thee
 With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me;
 Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

**6 Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756 Text: Public domain

Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

INTROIT

PSALM 143:1–2

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge! Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge!

GLORIA PATRI

☩ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

KYRIE

☩ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

☩ Glory be to God on high and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

☩ And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him.

Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA

G Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21–35

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

G Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

CATECHETICAL VERSE TO KNOW BY HEART

The Eighth Commandment

☩ You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

☩ We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Sit

SERMON HYMN: ♪ "COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE"

LSB 501

- 1 Come down, O Love divine;
Seek Thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with Thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near;
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.
- 2 O let it freely burn,
Till worldly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
- 3 Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be
And lowliness become mine inner clothing—
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
- 4 And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;
No soul can guess His grace
Till it become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

Text: Bianco da Siena, c. 1350–1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–90 Text: Public domain

SERMON:

By Pastor John Schmidt

Stand

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

G Amen.

OFFERTORY

G Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.

OFFERING HYMN: ♪“WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN”

LSB 781 V. 1-2

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!**

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Sit

HYMN: ♪“AT THE NAME OF JESUS”

LSB 512

- 1 At the name of Jesus
Ev’ry knee shall bow,
Ev’ry tongue confess Him
King of glory now.
’Tis the Father’s pleasure
We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.**
- 2 At His voice creation
Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces,
All the hosts of light,
Thrones and bright dominions,
Stars upon their way,
All the heav’nly orders
In their great array.**

- 3 Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death He passed;**
- 4 Bore it up triumphant
With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures
To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead,
To the Father's breast,
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest.**
- 5 In your hearts enthrone Him;
There let Him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true:
Crown Him as your captain
In temptation's hour;
Let His will enfold you
In its light and pow'r.**
- 6 Christians, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again
In His Father's glory,
With His angel train;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him
King of glory now.**
- △7 Glory then to Jesus,
Who, the Prince of light,
To a world in darkness
Brought the gift of sight;
Praise to God the Father;
In the Spirit's love
Praise we all together
Him who reigns above.**

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817–77, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

P Collect

G  Amen

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  give you peace.

G  Amen, amen, amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *J*"IN THEE IS GLADNESS"

LSB 818

1 In Thee is gladness
Amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given
The gifts of heaven,
Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest,
Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trusts Thee surely
Has built securely;
He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining
To see Thy shining,
Dying or living
To Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

2 Since He is ours,
We fear no powers,
Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses
In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story
Tell of His glory
With hearts and voices;
All heav'n rejoices
In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness,
Triumph o'er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him
And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

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