SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 16 & 17, 2023

Divine Service setting four LSB p. 203

As We Gather

This weekend on the Church calendar (September 16), the bishop Cyprian of Carthage is remembered. As a Church leader in the third century, a time of Roman persecution, Cyprian had to deal with the problem of Christians who denied the faith under persecution but later wanted to be restored to the fellowship of the Lord. Cyprian helped craft a response to the situation that was based on forgiveness, allowing a lapsed Christian to be reinstated after a time in which they lived out their restored faithful confession. His own faithfulness unto death was fully demonstrated as he was executed by Roman authorities for his Christian beliefs in AD 258. Speaking words of forgiveness and living them out can come with a price—but is Christlike in every way!

PRELUDE

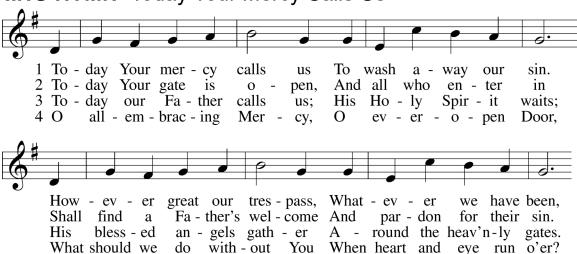
RINGING OF THE BELLS

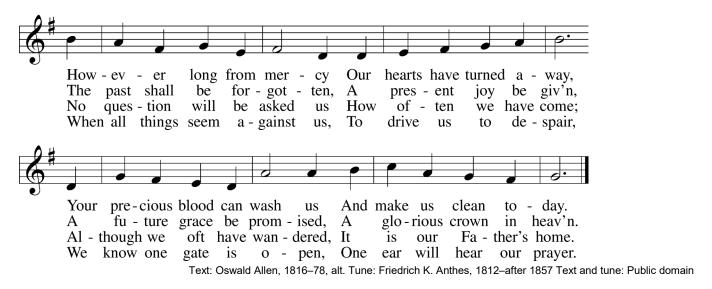
GREETING

P: Peace be with you, C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

LSB 915





stand

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB p. 203

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

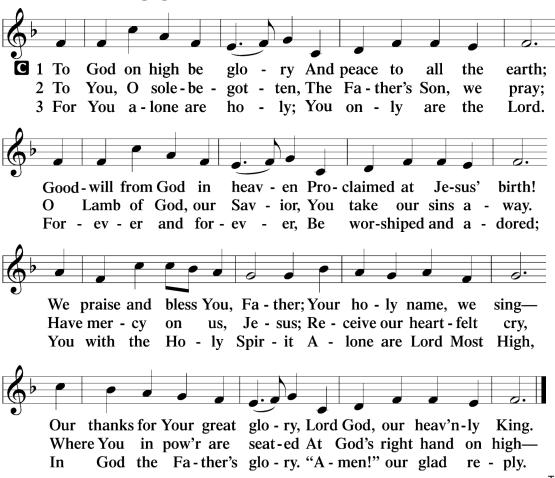
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB p. 204



Text: Stephen P. Starke

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB p. 205

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- 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.

C Amen.

sit

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As 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. ²¹So 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.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The 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. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why 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; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

stand

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And 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. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' 29So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When 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. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 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.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES CREED

LSB p. 207

C 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.

sit



LSB 851



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON "How Many Times Do I Need to Forgive"

Matthew 18:21-35

stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LSB p. 207

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the Church, that God's people live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in

word and deed. Grant that humility and mutual service be the hallmarks of our lives together.

- P: We pray for the nations of the world, that the presence of Christ be experienced everywhere around the globe and that the Gospel may have free course in every land. We bless You for the dedicated service of missionaries and deployed church workers in so many places around the globe. Grant that their service may meet with success and be filled with joy.
- P: We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship. Grant that we be always ready to listen to others and to grant our forgiveness when it is needed. As we live in community together, grant that we never take others for granted but rather that we encourage the labors in which we work together to the glory of God.
- P: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut in, those who are grieving at this time, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill, and all those whose needs are known and not known to us, [especially . . .]. Grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places, even when that service requires devotion and sacrifice on our part.

Special Prayers

P: Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. We thank You for the times when forgiveness, offered by others, has blessed and sustained us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant's way throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.

C: Amen.

sit

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

stand





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80 Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010 Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744

PREFACE LSB p. 208

- 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 Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS LSB p. 208



Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB p. 209

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER LSB p. 209

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB p. 209

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI LSB p. 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

sit

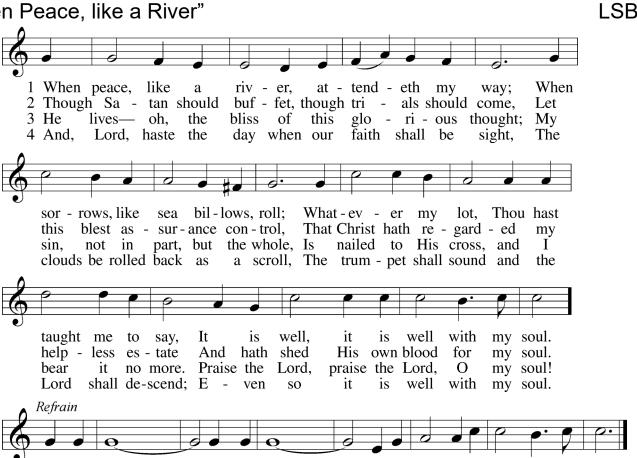
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

LSB 611



It is well

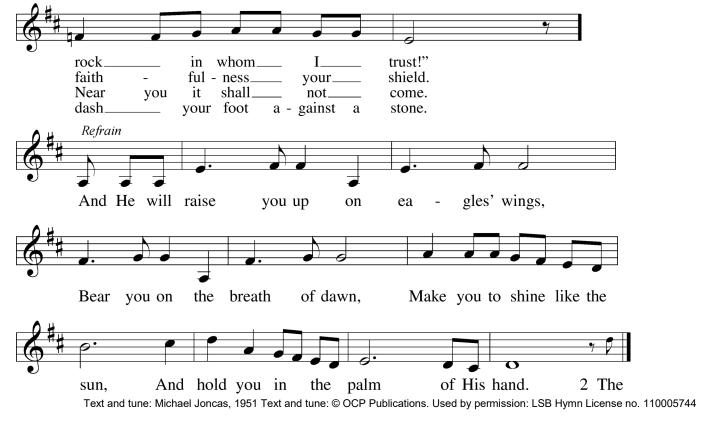


with my soul,

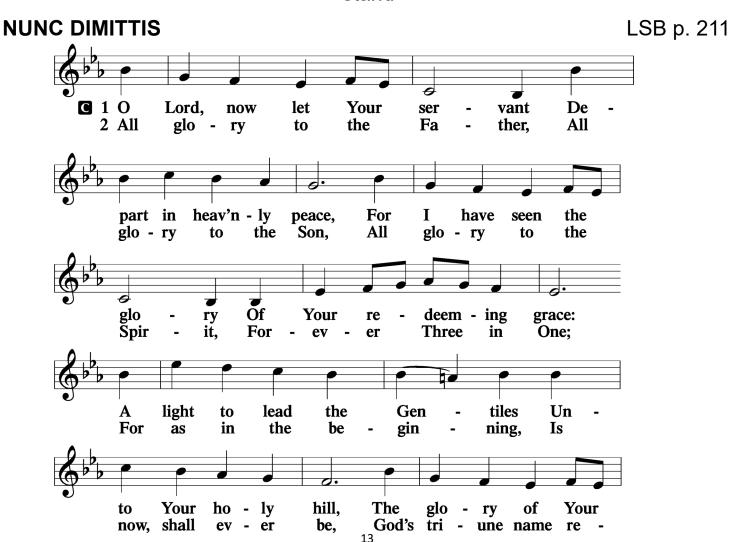
Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-88, alt. Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-76 Text and tune: Public domain

It is well, it is well with my soul.





stand





POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

LSB p. 212

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

LSB p. 212

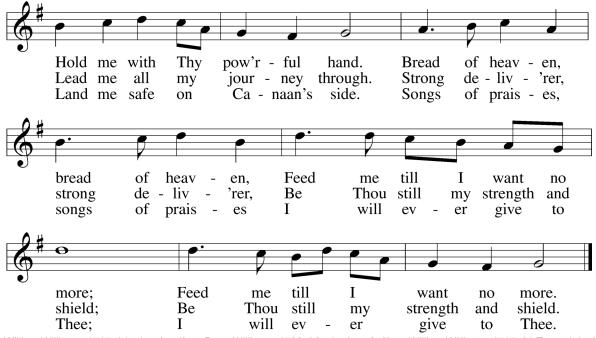
- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.
- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
- C Amen.

sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF DEPARTURE "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" LSB 918





Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91 Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932

Text and tune: Public domain

THE SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

| Preacher | | Pastor Schroeder |
|-------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| Liturgist | | Pastor Fitch |
| Organist | | Janelle Bonson |
| Elder | | David Henneman |
| Head Usher | Sat | Jeff Bahn |
| | Sun | Mike & Georgia Swenson, Tom Ehlert |
| Altar Guild | | Kaye Hobart |
| Greeter | Sat | |
| | Sun | |
| Coffee | | |

Welcome to Peace in the name of the Risen Savior!

We request that visitors register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. We ask that you share your name and address so that we can recognize your visit with us. All members are requested to register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. Members, please indicate all family members present and those who took communion, so that the Pastor and Elders can be spiritually accountable for you and your family.

Are your cell phones turned off? Cell phones are indeed a great convenience in life these days. However, please, out of courtesy, silence cell phones during the worship service. Thank you!

Hearing assist devices and large print bulletins are available for those who may need them. Please see an Usher or the Elder who will be happy to assist you.

A Mother's Room is available for parents of young children if the need arises. The Mother's Room in the west hallway. The worship service is able to be heard in the Mother's Room.

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion.

Scripture teaches that Holy Communion is a sacred act, established by Christ Himself and is given to His Church. As members of **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**, we hold the doctrine of the Real Presence, in with and under; meaning that Jesus gives His Body and Blood

with the bread and wine, as He Himself says, "This is my body... This is my blood... for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:26ff)

The Holy Scriptures also teach us to receive this meal in a way that is responsible and healthy. As overseer, St. Paul wrote- "let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself" (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Out of genuine care for God's people we ask that those (1) who have not been baptized and instructed in the faith or (2) who come from another church body, not in altar or pulpit fellowship with us, refrain from receiving Holy Communion.

For those preparing to receive Holy Communion, Luther encourages us to ask ourselves these questions:

Do I repent of my sins, desiring to turn away from them, back to the Lord?

Do **I believe** Jesus died and rose for me and gives me His Body and Blood this day "for the forgiveness of sins"?

Do I intend to use this means of grace to change my life, following His will and way? We ask that all who receive the Lord's Supper fill out a "Care Card" and place it in the offering plate. Please note that reduced-alcoholic white wine is available in the center cups of the communion tray.

Peace Lutheran Church The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

1228 S Park Ave. Neenah, WI 54956 920-725-0510

Ricky P. Schroeder, Pastor pastor@peaceneenah.com

Josiah Fitch, Associate Pastor assocpastor@peaceneenah.com

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Holy Communion Celebrated at all Services Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00a.m.
Sunday Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School (Sept. –May) 10:30 a.m.

Website: www.peaceneenah.com

YouTube: Peace Neenah

