



Matthew 18, 15-20

First Lutheran Church

September 13, 2026

Pentecost 16

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE DETROIT

Wayne L. Wold

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

MORNING PRAYER

The assembly stands.

AM: In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

OPENING



Leader: O Lord, o - pen my lips,

and my mouth shall pro - claim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,

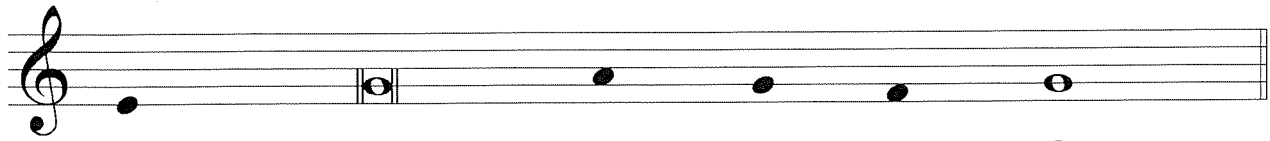
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,

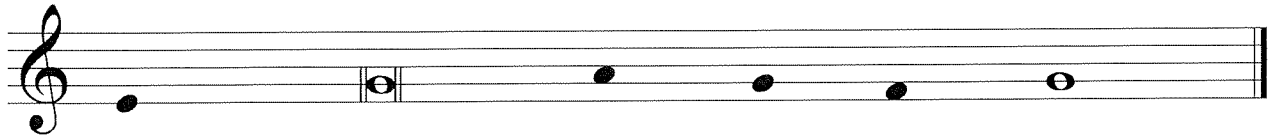
and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

PSALMODY

INVITATORY



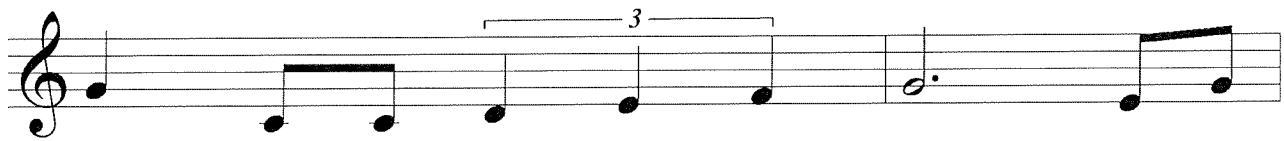
Give glory to God our light and our life.



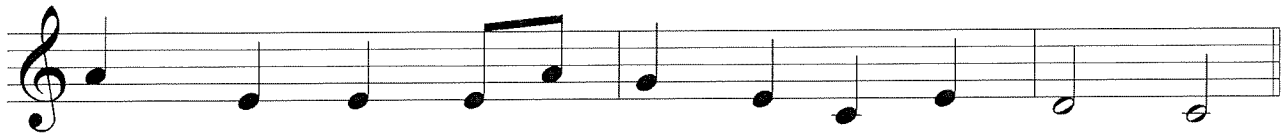
Oh, come let us wor - ship and praise.

MORNING PSALM OF PRAISE

PSALM 95:1-7



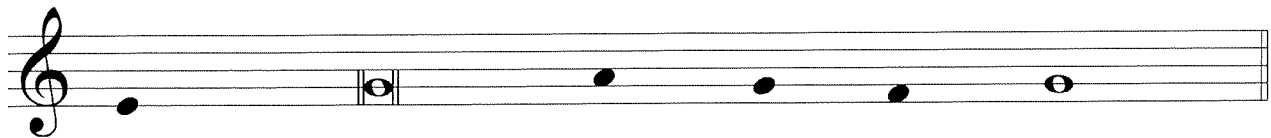
Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us



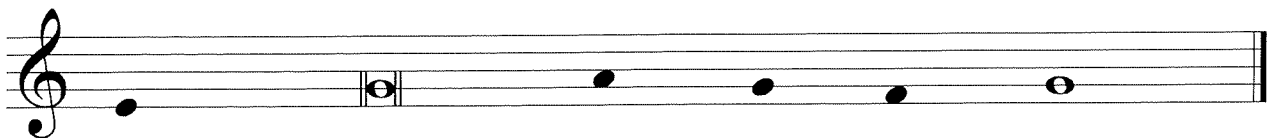
shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

FINAL INVITATORY



Give glory to God our light and our life.



Oh, come let us wor - ship and praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: 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.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

WORD

FIRST READING

GENESIS 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

AM: A reading from Genesis, the fifth chapter.

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.

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: 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.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

WORD

FIRST READING

GENESIS 50:15-21

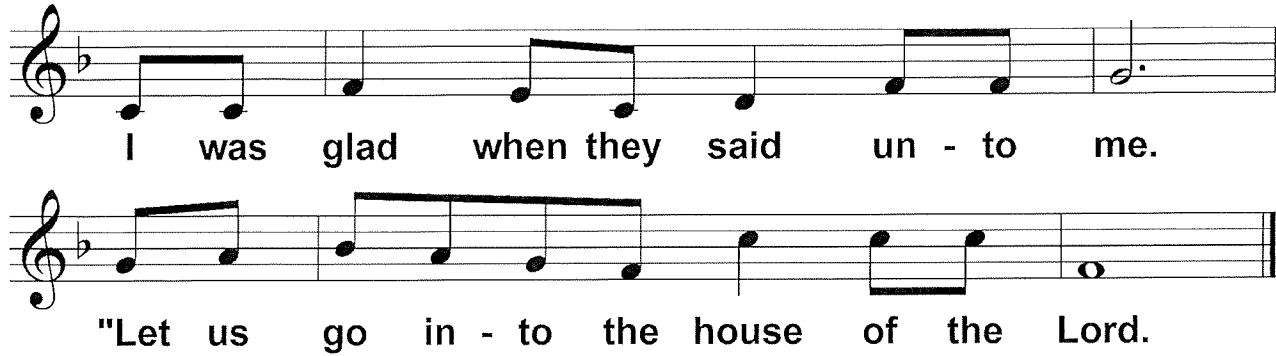
After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

AM: A reading from Genesis, the fifty-first chapter.

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.

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



The Cantor will sing the verses:

- ¹ I was glad when they | said unto me, "Let us go into the house | of the Lord."
- ² Now our | feet are standing within your gates, | O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem is built | as a city that is at unity | with itself;
- ⁴ to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord. **Refrain**
- ⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment, the thrones of the | house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem: "May they pros- | per who love you. **Refrain**
- ⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls and quietness with- | in your towers.
- ⁸ For the sake of my kindred | and companions, I pray for | your prosperity.
- ⁹ Because of the house of the | Lord our God, I will seek to | do you good." **Refrain**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

AM: A reading from Romans, the fourteenth chapter.

- ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with

sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

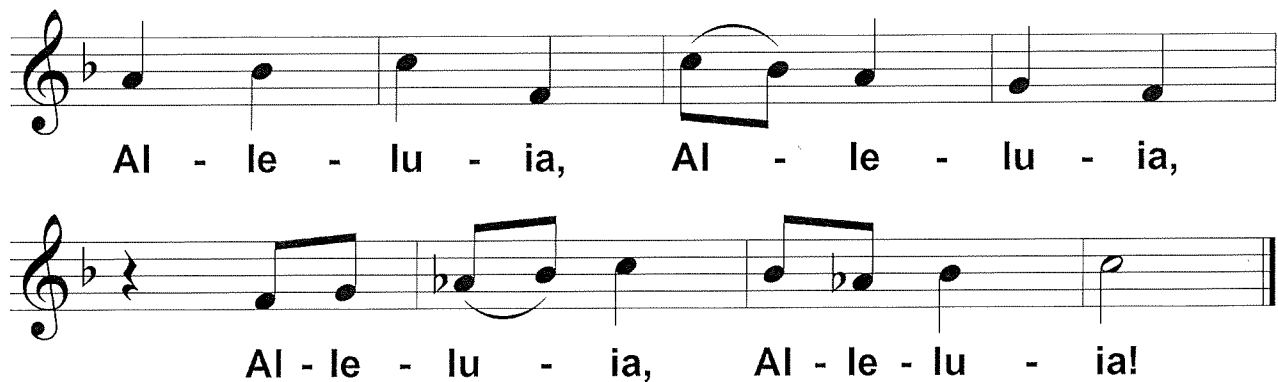
⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

AM: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Cantor will sing the verse: We have an advocate, Jesus ¹ Christ the righteous;
* your sins are forgiven on account ¹ of his name. (1 John 2:1,12)

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35

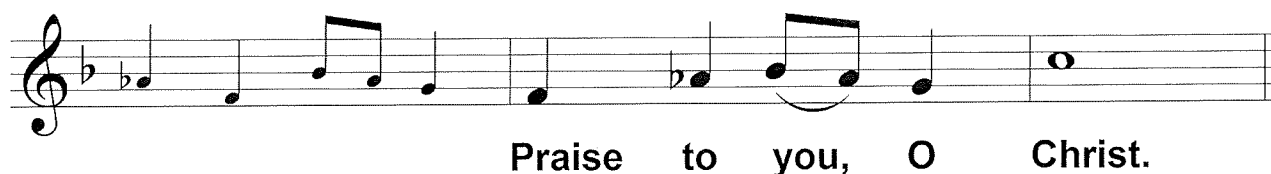
When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

PM: The Gospel according to Matthew.



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.”

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.



*The assembly remains standing for the **HYMN OF THE DAY.***



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

The assembly is seated.

REFLECTION

PASTOR MARK SCHURING

The assembly stands.

CANTICLE

Refrain

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our
 God the dawn from on high shall
 break up - on us.

The Cantor will sing the verses.

APOSTLES' CREED

PM: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

TWENTY-FOURTH

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Michael Burkhardt

The assembly stands.



ALL 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
Women 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
ALL 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
Men 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
ALL 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
 Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
 so that all creation can taste your abundance.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus,
 through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

The assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

AM: Move your global church away from judging and hating others.
 Help us live out the deep forgiveness you gave us through Jesus.

Each petition concludes:

PM: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

PM: 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.

The assembly stands.

LORD'S PRAYER

PM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

SENDING

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

PM: We Pray together:

C: Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.

**We are grateful for your goodness
and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future.**

**Bless our community of faith,
bless the changes that are before us,
bless our pastoral leaders who will shepherd us
through this time of transition.**

We thank you for the wisdom you show us.

Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future.

**Receive our prayer, O God, through Jesus Christ,
our strength and salvation. Amen.**

BLESSING

PM: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.



SENDING SONG

GO MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING

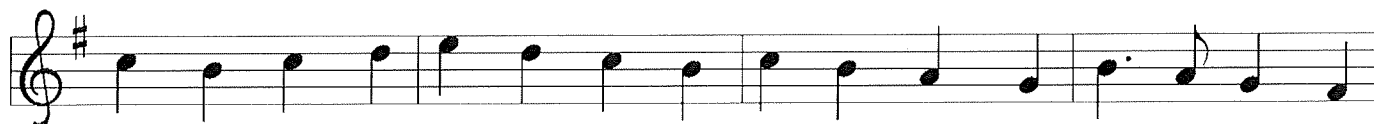
ELW # 543



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Jubilate Graham Twist

AM: Go out in joy.

PM: Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

Events in Review

<u>Sunday</u>	Sept 13
10:00 AM	Pentecost 16
	Sunday School Returns
11:00 AM	Ice Cream Social
<u>Monday</u>	Sept 14
10:00 AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15 PM	Bells of Praise Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Sept 15
<u>Wednesday</u>	Sept 16
5:30	Council Meeting
<u>Thursday</u>	Sept 17
9:00 AM	Life Line Screening
<u>Friday</u>	Sept 18
<u>Saturday</u>	Sept 19

Bells of Praise : Practice resumes
Monday September 14th
at 5:15 PM



Today



If you have a prayer request for today, please raise your hand during announcements and a host will give you a green card to fill out.

Next Week

<u>Sunday</u>	Sept 20
10:00 AM	Pentecost 17
<u>Monday</u>	Sept 21
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
1:30 PM	Bookworms
5:15 PM	Bells of Praise Practice
<u>Tuesday</u>	Sept 22
<u>Wednesday</u>	Sept 23
<u>Thursday</u>	Sept 24
1:00 PM	WOFB
<u>Friday</u>	Sept 25
<u>Saturday</u>	Sept 26

**Address for Sympathy Cards
for Jim Ruess**

***The Ruess Family
1466 Smith Road,
Ashland, Ohio 44805***

The Word in Season & Portal of Prayer
for October, November & December
and September's Monthly Scroll are now available o
n the hallway table

Contact Us



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Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild Mike & Bonnie Oberlander

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera

Host

Reader: Jonathan Nominee

Worship Assistant Jonathan Nominee

Director of Music: Curtis L. King

Minister: Pastor Mark Schuring

Assisting Minister:

Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring

(740) 360-2306

theskipster55@gmail.com

Emergency Contacts

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CURTIS L. KING	419 937-7142
GLORIA STACY	419 934-3023
RICK SHOLL	419 939-3436

Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

**“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”**

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