

Sunday Worship Service – September 13, 2026
16th Sunday after Pentecost
***With One Voice – Holy Communion – Bread of Life, Setting 5* (p.28-41)**
 The liturgy and hymns are from WOV

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings*

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals the example of God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed as a sign of reconciliation in the world.

Prayer of Confession¹

Merciful God, forgive us seven times, seventy times, seventy-seven times, even when we neglect to forgive as freely as you forgive us. Forgive us with such abundance and grace, that our hearts may overflow with gratitude and mercy. May we begin to forgive freely and accept others gladly, as you have forgiven and accepted us. Welcome us into your arms of love, that we may welcome others with compassion and care.
In gratitude we pray. Amen

Words of Forgiveness

Out of compassion, God sees our sins and forgives our shortcomings. So we are called to see with compassion and forgive. We are made new in Christ Jesus, given new eyes to see and grace to forgive. We are forgiven in the name of the +Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

WOV #745 Gathering Hymn “Awake, O Sleeper”

- 1. Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.**
- 2. To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.**
- 3. Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.**

¹ Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2014*, edited by Mary Scifes and BJ Beu. Copyright © 2013 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

4. **For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.**

p.28 **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.**

p.28 **Kyrie**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

p.29 **Hymn of Praise “Glory to God”**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth,
and peace to God’s people on earth.**

Prayer of the Day*

Gracious 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.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

In the Old Testament reading from Genesis, we hear that 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.'

The Old Testament reading from Genesis, chapter 50:

When Joseph's brothers realized that their father was now dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us, and wants to pay us back seriously for all of the terrible things we did to him?" So they approached Joseph and said, "Your father gave orders before he died, telling us, 'This is what you should say to Joseph. "Please, forgive your brothers' sins and misdeeds, for they did terrible things to you. Now, please forgive the sins of the servants of your father's God." ' " Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

His brothers wept too, fell down in front of him, and said, "We're here as your slaves."

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I God?" You planned something bad for me, but God produced something good from it, in order to save the lives of many people, just as God's doing today. Now, don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." So Joseph put them at ease and spoke reassuringly to them. (CEB)

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

Psalm 103:1-13²

From the depths of my soul, bless the Holy One!
Bless the Holy Name from my innermost being.

² Adapted from *Songs for the Holy One* – Translated by Thomas Barnett, Music by Donald Patriquin. Published by Wood Lake Books. Copyright © 2004. Used by permission.

**In the depths of my soul, bless the Holy Name,
and do not forget the bounteous gifts showered upon me.**

Bless the Holy One

who forgives your wicked deeds and heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the grave

and crowns you with steadfast love and kindness,

who satisfies you with good things

and renews your youth, lively as an eagle.

The Holy One gives true justice and fair judgements

to all who are wronged,

making the right ways known to Moses and the divine plans to Israel.

The Holy One is merciful and gracious, slow to anger,

and full of faithful love;

never accusing, nor retaining anger forever.

God does not treat us as sinners, nor deal with us as wicked people.

As the heavens are high above earth,

so great is faithful love for those who are reverent.

Far as the east is from the west,

so far the Holy One has put away our wrongdoings.

Tender as parents' love for their children

is the Holy One's love for reverent people.

The Holy One knows our nature, is mindful that we are but dust.

Our days are short-lived as grass;

like a wildflower we wither away.

For the wind blows over it and it is gone, its place again unknown.

The Holy One's faithful love endures for all eternity;

God's fair justice extends through children's children

of those who keep the holy covenant and obey its precepts.

The Holy One has established the divine throne in heaven,

whence the sublime majesty rules over all.

Bless the Holy One, all you angels,

strong and powerful beings who fulfill God's words,

always ready to obey those words.

Bless the Holy One, you heavenly host,

servants carrying out God's will.

Let all creation bless the Holy One throughout the divine realm.

O my soul, bless the Holy One!

New Testament Reading: Romans 14:1-12

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

A reading from Romans the 14th chapter:

Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own God (and they will stand, because God has the power to make them stand). One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions. Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for God. Those who eat, eat for God, because they thank God. And those who don't eat, don't eat for God, and they thank God too. We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. If we live, we live for God, and if we die, we die for God. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother or sister or sibling? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister or sibling? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God. Because it is written, "*As I live, says God, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God.*" So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. (CEB)

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

p.31 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter said to Jesus, “How many times should I forgive someone who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?”

Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.

Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who wanted to settle accounts with their servants. When the ruler began to settle accounts, they brought a servant who owed them ten thousand bags of gold.

Because the servant didn’t have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that the servant should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment.

But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

“When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’

“Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

“When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. His master called the first servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. Shouldn’t you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

“My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don’t forgive your neighbour from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

WOV #733 Hymn of the Day *"Our Father, We Have Wandered"*

1. Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,
as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.
2. And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
3. O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving and ever caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

p.33 Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers of Intercession*

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers,
confident that God hears us. *A brief silence.*

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising
others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember all those in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving others. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

p.35 Offertory

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

p.35 Offering Prayer

Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

p.36 **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,
to give thanks to you.

As you gave our ancestors in faith food and water in the desert,
even when they turned away from you,
you have promised to free us from all divisions and to give us eternal life.
And so with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.36 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

p.39 **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Communion Distribution

p.39 ***Lamb of God***

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

WOV #710 Communion Hymn *“One Bread, One Body”*

Refrain:

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless,
and we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.**

1. **Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more.** *Refrain*
2. **Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.** *Refrain*
3. **Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.** *Refrain*

Communion Blessing & Prayer after Communion

Announcements

Blessing³

As you go from this place, plunge into the world unafraid, for God goes with us. Move forward in life with purpose and passion, for Christ is our guide and guardian. Live as people of powerful hope, for the Spirit renews us each and every day. Go with God’s blessing in the name of + God the Creator, Jesus our healer, and the Holy Spirit, our comforter. Amen.

WOV #722 Sending Hymn *“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”*

Refrain:

Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Hallelujah! We sing your praises, all our hearts are filled with gladness.

(repeat)

1. **Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hunger.** *(repeat)*

Refrain

2. **Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joyful gospel.** *(repeat)*

Refrain

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God in word and deed. **Thanks be to God!**

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Sources:

- Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB) and have been adapted for inclusive language.
- Those parts of this worship service marked with an asterisk (*) are adapted from:
<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2026-09-06/0#texts>