

Sunday Worship Service – September 6, 2026
15th Sunday after Pentecost
***With One Voice – Holy Communion – Bread of Life, Setting 5* (p.28-41)**
 The liturgy and hymns are from WOV

Words of Welcome

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings*

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Prayer of Confession¹

God of freedom, you help us leave behind all that keeps us from being fully human, yet we resist your help and the change you offer. Clinging to old, familiar patterns, we are reluctant to move on. When others challenge us, we grow defensive. Give us open and generous hearts, that we may hear your call and follow you on new adventures of love and compassion. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness²

Hear the words of forgiveness from Jesus: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." As we gather to build each other up in following Jesus' example of love, Christ is here to make us whole and we are forgiven in the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

WOV #717 Gathering Hymn "*Come All You People*"

- 1. Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
 come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;**

¹ Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017*, edited by Mary Scrifes and BJ Beu. Copyright © 2016 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

² Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*, edited by Mary Scrifes and BJ Beu. Copyright © 2019 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

- come now and worship the Lord.
2. Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come now and worship the Lord.
 3. Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.

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 Day³

*Holy God, we sing your songs of praise, rejoicing in your love.
We know that when we gather, you are here with us.
Continue to build us into a faithful community – a community
that cares for one another and listens to one another in love.
Living your love, help us follow you onto new paths. Amen.*

Psalm 119:33-40

God, teach me what your statutes are about,
and I will guard every part of them.
**Help me understand so I can guard your Instruction
and keep it with all my heart.**
Lead me on the trail of your commandments
because that is what I want.
Turn my heart to your laws, not to greedy gain.
Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things.
Make me live by your way.
Confirm your promise to your servant—
the promise that is for all those who honor you.
Remove the insults that I dread because your rules are good.
Look how I desire your precepts! Make me live by your righteousness.

New Testament Reading: Romans 13:8-14

*In this letter written to the church in Rome, we hear that the obligation of
Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law.
Clothes make the person as we “put on Jesus Christ” and live today in light of
the future God has in store for us.*

A reading from Romans the 13th chapter, beginning at the 8th verse:

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Don't be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. The commandments, Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't desire what others have, and any other commandments, are all summed up in one word: You must love your neighbor as yourself. Love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law.

As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let's get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light. Let's behave appropriately as people who live in the day, not in partying and getting drunk, not in sleeping around and obscene behavior, not in fighting and obsession. Instead, dress yourself with Jesus Christ, and don't plan to indulge your selfish desires.

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 18:15-20

In the gospel reading Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

From *The Message*, a paraphrase of the Bible.

"If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell them—work it out between the two of you. If they listen, you've made a friend. If they won't listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If they still won't listen, tell the church. If they won't

listen to the church, you'll have to start over from scratch, confront them with the need for repentance, and offer again God's forgiving love.

"Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, God in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." (MSG)

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

Sermon

WOV #735 Hymn of the Day *"God! When Human Bonds Are Broken"* (v.1-2,4-5)

- 1. God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.**
- 2. Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress, for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.**
- 4. Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life. Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.**
- 5. Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true, give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!**

Affirmation of Faith ⁴

**We believe in God the Creator,
who created and is creating everything:
the universe, the world, the plants and animals, and us;
each of us, unique, individual and beloved of God.**

**We believe in God the Christ,
who saved and is saving everything.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who guided and is guiding everything:**

**We believe that this one God in three persons,
is present among us, working directly in our lives**

⁴ *Affirmation of Faith* written by Lisa Frenz, from a **Thanksgiving Liturgy** written for the Mount Carmel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Portland, Oregon. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

and the lives of all who are born into this world,
 striving to bring us back into harmony with all creation and with God:
 forgiving, healing, touching everyone,
 never rejecting any who willingly receive
 this freely offered gift of love and grace and eternal life. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Passing 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

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 #701 Communion Hymn "*What Feast of Love*"

1. **What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
 What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
 This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**
2. **What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
 What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**
3. **What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?**

**What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Announcements

Blessing⁵

As you leave this place,
 may God continue to fill you and inspire you to follow Jesus.
 With Jesus in you and among you,
 may you continue to bring hope and love to all you meet,
 proclaiming justice and peace wherever you go.
 In the name of + God our Creator, Jesus our friend,
 and the Holy Spirit our comforter. Amen

WOV #771 Sending Hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

- 1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
 there is no shadow of turning with thee;
 thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
 as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain: **Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
 great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.**

- 2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon and stars in their courses above
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. (*Refrain*)**
- 3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;**

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**strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *(Refrain)***

Sending

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

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>