

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Here I Am to Worship”

(piano)

**Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.**

*Refrain: Here I am to worship; Here I am to bow down;
Here I am to say that You’re my God.*

You’re altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

**King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the earth you created, all for love’s sake became poor. Refrain**

**And I’ll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross.
And I’ll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross. Refrain**

**Greeting*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: O Lord God, just and merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hardened hearts with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise: “You Are My All in All”

(piano)

**1. You are my strength when I am weak You are my treasure that I seek
You are my all in all.**

**Seeking you as a precious jewel Lord, to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all.**

*Refrain: Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.*

**2. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame Rising again I bless your name
You are my all in all.**

**When I fall down you pick me up When I am dry you fill my cup
You are my all in all. Refrain**

WORD

Reading: Genesis 50:15-20

Reader: Mike Fenner

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus 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. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Sermon: “To Forgive is Not For the Faint of Heart”

Song of the Day – “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” ELW 605 (organ)
to the tune of ELW 516

- 1 **"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.**
- 2 **How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?**
- 3 **In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others' debts to us; how great our debt to you!**
- 4 **Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.**

**The 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*

Stewardship Time

**"Living Hope," by Phil Wickham
sung by the Faith Singers**

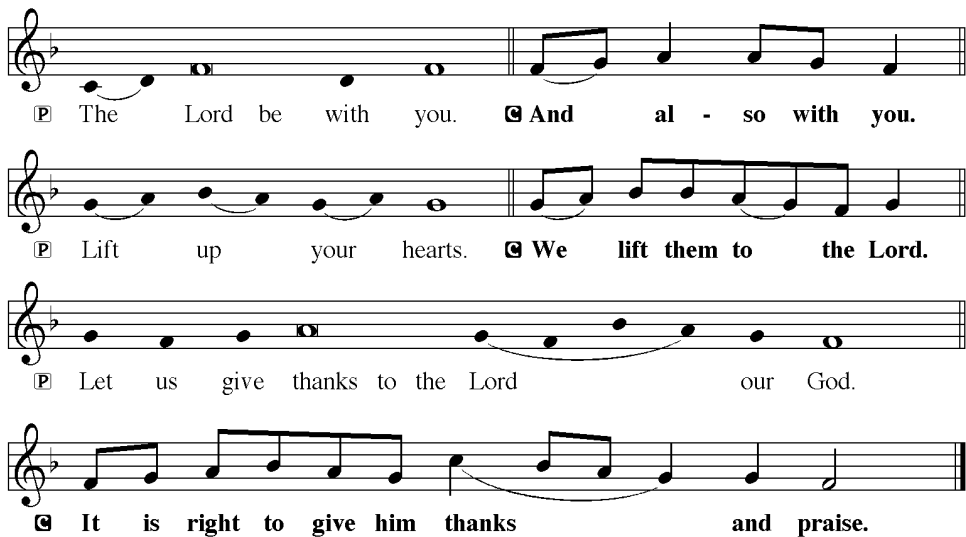
*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are
communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—*

**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful God,

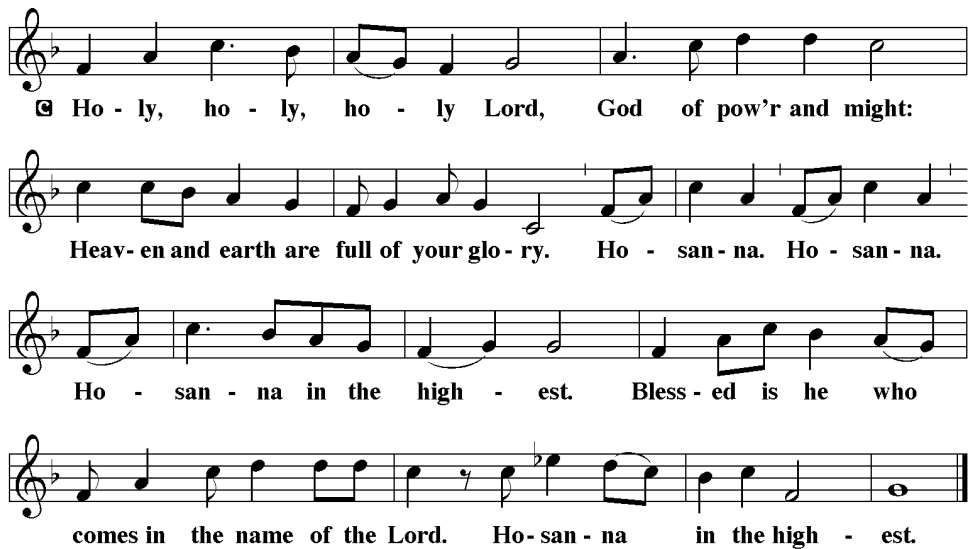
C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



P The Lord be with you. G And al - so with you.
 P Lift up your hearts. G We lift them to the Lord.
 P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Lord's Prayer*

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.

Communion Songs

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” ELW 707 (*organ*)

- 1 **Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice;
and with that have freely given blessings countless as the sand
to the unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.**
- 2 **Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness melt our thankless hearts of stone
till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by you, at length believe
that more happy and more blessed 'tis to give than to receive.**
- 3 **Wondrous honor you have given to our humblest charity
in your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to me."
Naked, sick, in prison, hungry—in the least, your face we view,
saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you."**
- 4 **Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price,
never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, hope, to stay our souls on you:
but, oh, best of all your graces, with your love our love renew.**

- 1 **Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**
- 2 **Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**
- 3 **Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.**
- 4 **Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Shine, Jesus, Shine”*

(piano)

1. **Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

*Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord,
and let there be light!*

**2. Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness;
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness;
Shine on me, shine on me. Refrain**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The altar plants are donated today by Celeste Hill in celebration of her birthday
and
by the Oldenettel family in celebration of Kellon's 18th birthday today

Song Credits

"Here I Am to Worship," words and music by Tim Hughes, ThankYou Music © 2001. CCLI#973583

"You Are My All In All," by Dennis Jernigan, © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.

"Shine, Jesus, Shine," from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Pam Devlin

Greeter: Lynette Hamilton

Reader: Mike Fenner

Ushers: Angie & Mike Fenner

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Greg Kimler & John Williams

Chancel Committee: Mary Jane Esslinger



Coffee Hosts: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson

Leading worship this morning: Bishop Emeritus John Roth

Singers:

Maddie Crossin	Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street
Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kevin Krohe	Monica Proefrock	Cory Street
Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker	John Williams

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, September 13, 9:30am: Worship

10:45am: Bible Study in the Justice Room

Wednesday, September 16, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

Thursday, September 17, 6:00pm: Council Meeting

Sunday, September 20, 9:30am: Worship **Newsletter Deadline**

10:45am: Fall Fest Planning in the Peace Room

10:45am: Bible Study in the Justice Room

Wednesday, September 23, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock and Faith's Older Flock

We now have two groups of children meeting during worship on the Sundays we are inside. Faith's Little Flock is for children ages 2-7, and Faith's Older Flock is for children grades 1-6.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library**. We gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We are utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin.

Post-Service Discussions – Digging Deeper

will resume after church **Today** in the Justice Room. Join us for exploring the new sermon series based on the Lectionary.

New Faith Telephone Directory

We will be printing a new Faith Directory later this month and would like to update any new information you might have. Please make changes directly onto the copy at the Coffee Sales counter or email your changes to the church office. Thank You!

Help Make Faith's Fall Fest Fantastic

Fall Fest is right around the corner, and you're invited to help shape one of Faith's most fun and festive events of the year. **Join the planning team in the Peace Room right after worship on Sunday, September 20**, to brainstorm activities, map out details, and bring creative ideas to life.

Whether you love organizing, decorating, dreaming up games, or simply enjoy being part of a joyful community event, your energy and imagination will make a big difference. Come be part of the team that makes Fall Fest happen — it's a great way to connect, contribute, and have fun along the way. If you can't be at the meeting but would like to help, reach out to Monica Proefrock at monica.proefrock@gmail.com.

Retirement Receptions for Kris Roth & Jean Welch

Our congregation is giving thanks for the partnership in ministry we have shared with two of our beloved staff members - Kris Roth as our Secretary and Jean Welch as our Music Director. All are invited to gather in gratitude and celebration as they enter retirement. Two receptions will be held to offer heartfelt opportunities to share memories, express appreciation, and bless Kris and Jean as they step into this new chapter.

A reception honoring Kris Roth will be held following worship on Sunday, Sept. 27, and a reception for Jean Welch will take place following worship on Sunday, October 4, both in the Great Room. All are welcome to attend.

If you would like to contribute to a retirement gift from the congregation, please indicate "Kris retirement" or "Jean retirement" on your check or envelope so your gift can be

directed appropriately. Your generosity will help celebrate their years of faithful service and the many ways they have enriched the life of our Faith family. Thank you Kris and Jean! You have been such a blessing to us and we give thanks to God for the ministry we have shared together!

SUNDAY SACK LUNCHES TO GO -- Help stop hunger in our community

The Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches is partnering with Go Church to collect food items for their ‘Sunday Sack Lunches to Go’ program, helping the hungry in the Jacksonville Area.

Collected supplies will be donated to Go Church to include in their food distribution program. Needed items include:

- Mixed Fruit Cups
- NutriGrain Breakfast Bars
- Quaker Chewy Granola Bars
- Nature Valley Trail Mix Bars
- Individual Packets of Cookies
- JIF To Go, Creamy Peanut Butter Cups
- Peanut Butter Cracker Variety Packs
- Tuna Salad with Crackers (Individual Servings)
- Chicken Salad with Cracker Packs (Individual Servings)
- Vanilla Pudding Cups
- Chocolate Pudding Cups
- Slim Jims

Monetary donations are appreciated and needed, with checks payable to ‘Go Church.’

Items will be collected **through September 20, 2026**. Supplies can be left in the blue collection box in the Mission & Ministry Center (coat closet).

Questions? Contact coordinator Pat Glyshaw at pat.glyshaw@gmail.com