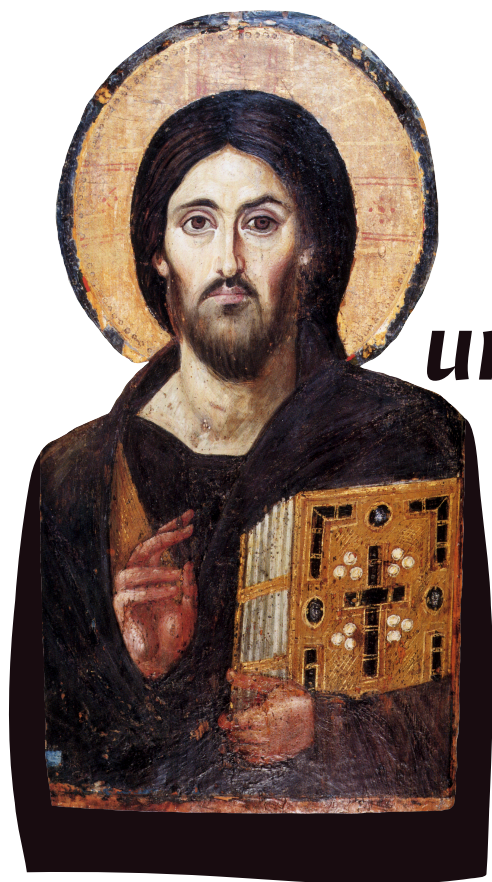




unexpected **TRUTHS**

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:
FORGIVENESS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 ✕ 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM



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WELCOME

We're glad you're here and want you to feel comfortable!

WHAT TO EXPECT

The service is printed here except for hymns which are found in the blue hymnal in the pew. Join in as you're comfortable.

FOR FAMILIES

Children are welcome here! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If needed, the entryway has audio so you can still participate.

NEED HELP?

Ask anyone—we're glad to help.

Pastors Boettcher and Peil would love to meet you - please introduce yourself!

HOLY COMMUNION

If you're a visitor today, please see our note to you about Holy Communion on page 8.

Thanks for being with us. God bless you through His Word.

WORSHIP SERIES: UNEXPECTED TRUTHS | TODAY: Forgiveness is for me

Some of the most important truths revealed in the Bible are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Scripture teaches that humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. It declares that salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God's grace. Most unexpected of all is the message that God brings forgiveness and eternal life through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD** type.* 

HYMN 697 May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

INVOCATION

Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able

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

Matthew 28:19

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

silence for reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

The simple prayer, "Lord, have mercy" has been the hope-filled cry of Christians for many centuries. We pray to Jesus, who is Lord and Christ, and ask for his help based on his mercy. Kyrie is a Greek word that means "Lord" and eleison means "have mercy".

The minister sings: Lord Jesus, You raise us to new life: Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.

All sing (repeating what minister sang): **Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.**

The minister sings: Lord Jesus, You forgive us our sins: Christe eleison, eleison, Christe.

All sing: **Christe eleison, eleison, Christe.**

The minister sings: Lord Jesus, You feed us with Your body and blood: Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.

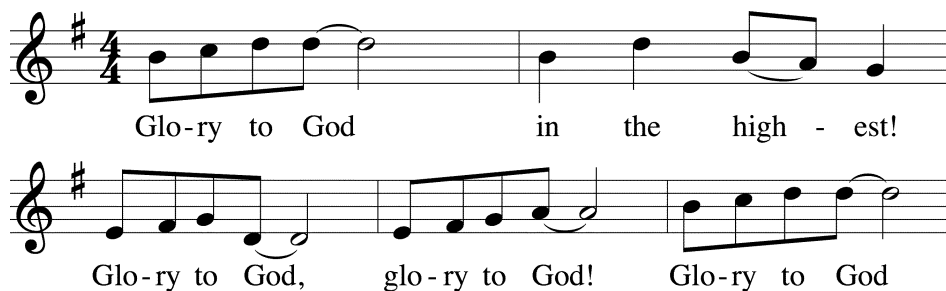
All sing: **Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.**

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST *(Gloria in Excelsis)*

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Psalms 95:1

All sing:



Soloist sings: Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship You, we give
You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

All sing: **Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God! Glory to God, in the
highest! Peace to His people on earth!**

Soloist sings: 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.

All sing: **Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God! Glory to God, in the
highest! Peace to His people on earth!**

Soloist sings: 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.

All sing: **Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God! Glory to God, in the
highest! Peace to His people on earth!**

Soloist repeats refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all
our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful
to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed
lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

*Because the Lord had shown Joseph such grace and love, Joseph is compelled to forgive his brothers.
He wept as he freed them, and himself, from the pain of the past with forgiveness.*

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

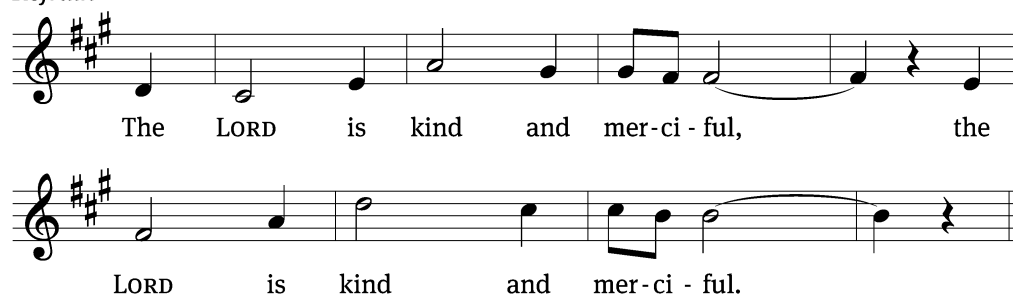
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103

The Church hears Psalm 103 in services that emphasize Jesus forgiving our sins.

The refrain is sung twice at the beginning and end of the psalm. The soloist will sing the refrain once and the congregation joins in all of the remaining refrains; the soloist sings the verses.

Refrain



Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all my being, bless his name;
bless the LORD, and forget not his benefits. **(Refrain)**

He pardons all your iniquities and comforts your sorrows,
redeems your life from destruction and crowns you with his kindness. **(Refrain)**

Merciful, merciful, and gracious is our God;
slow to anger, abounding in kindness. **(Refrain x 2)**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Forgiven and sealed in Christ, we become imitators of Christ, living out the kindness and compassion of Christ toward one another.

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving

each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Galatians 3:13

Alleluia! Bear with each other and forgive one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The ability to forgive others comes from the Spirit enabling us to understand how much God has forgiven us.

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

“His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY | 587 Come Down, O Love Divine

SERMON FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES

Please stand

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.**

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, as once You kept Joseph from evil and brought good from his suffering in Egypt, deliver us by Your grace so that we may learn patience in trials. Teach us to be slow to judge, quick to forgive, and steadfast in love for You and for one another. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, You have shown great compassion to us; teach us to show such compassion to others, that we may welcome the stranger, love our neighbor in need, and be attentive to those new to the faith or vulnerable to temptation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, lead us to pursue reconciliation, that we may stand before You forgiven and united in faith. Give us unity of doctrine, and help us to walk together in harmony of life. Prepare us to receive Your own Son's body and blood with faith, and bring to

fruition in our lives the precious gift of grace we receive in this communion. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Father, You know our weakness of body and soul. Give to the troubled in mind Your peace, to the suffering relief, to the sick healing, to the grieving comfort and deliver the dying into everlasting life. Hear us especially for those named now in our hearts... Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Special intercessions may be spoken here.

Almighty and everlasting God, deliver us from temptation and the powers of evil, that we may be faithful unto death and receive from Your hand the crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

OFFERING



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

One time or recurring GIFTS can be given through an account on our app: Church Center (QR Code on the left.)

*Or, for a one time gift, text **Give + dollar amount (example: Give\$5)** to **1 (844) 791-0302**. You'll receive a link to follow in response.*

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE TEACHERS

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS *Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.*

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!**

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

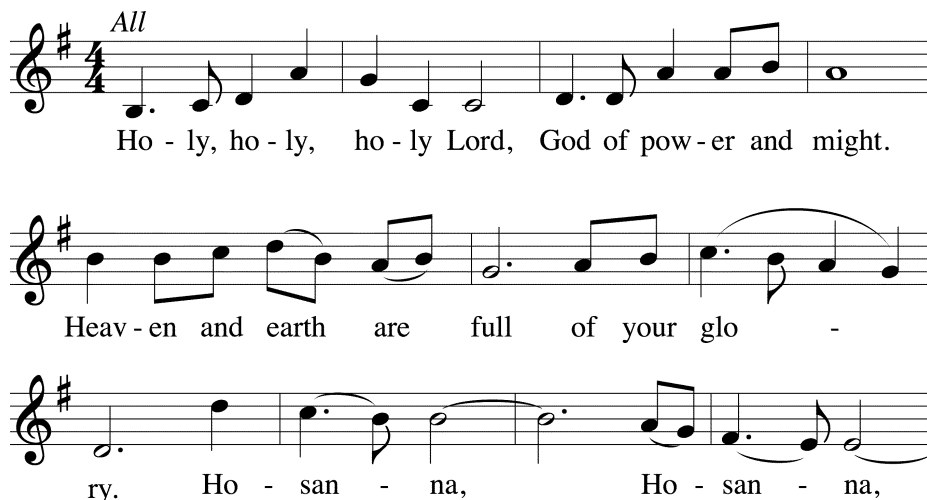
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

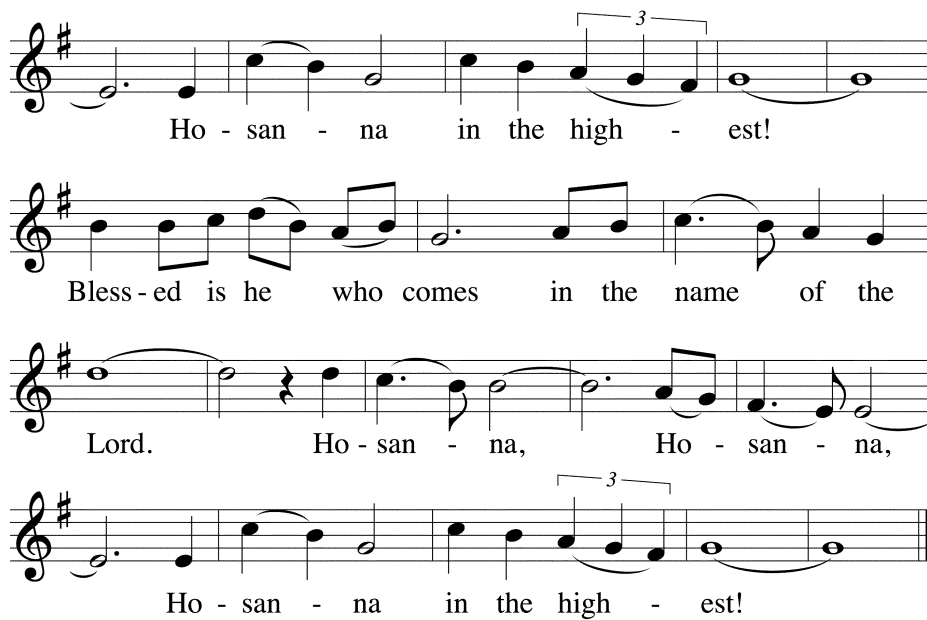
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until

we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

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 JESUS

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world, grant us peace.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.

repeat as needed

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.

repeat as needed

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN 583 God Loves Me Dearly

HYMN 579 His Mercy Is More

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go in peace. Your + sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Please stand

PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN 731 Oh, How Good It Is

