

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* BOCK

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. Amen.

HYMN #606 *Our Father, We Have Wandered* HERLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

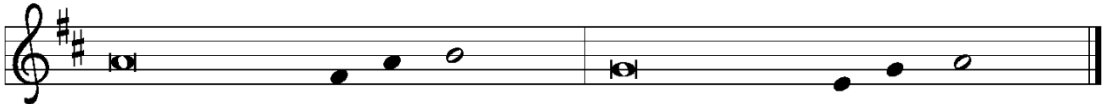
PRAYER OF THE DAY *Let us pray together. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



PSALM 103: 8-13 *(sing responsively)*

- ⁸ Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹² As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord.

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.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Pastor Tucker O’Leary, n/OLF*

HYMN #605 *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive* DETROIT

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, let us confess our faith

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 PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

...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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING *I Am the Bread of Life* SCHMOLTZE

OFFERTORY #481 *Come to the Table of Mercy* COME TO THE TABLE



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn titled 'GREAT THANKSGIVING'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.' The second staff also has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS [HOLY, HOLY, HOL Y]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a hymn titled 'SANCTUS [HOLY, HOLY, HOL Y]'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff has two measures: 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.' The third staff has two measures: 'Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

AGNUS DEI [LAMB OF GOD]

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

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

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. Amen

SENDING HYMN #721*Goodness Is Stronger than Evil (sing 2 times)* GOODNESS IS STRONGER

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Rondeau in G Major* LASKY



Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45

Come to the Table of Mercy

Welcome to First Lutheran Church.

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

WE ASK EVERYONE to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Toni Poling in honor of Dennis and Toni's 26th Wedding Anniversary on September 9th!

A CARD WRITING MINISTRY has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!

PASTORAL CARE While both Pastor Tucker and Pastor Chris are away (September 15-30), Pastor Art Wilde will be on call for pastoral care emergencies, hospitalizations, and other situations needing a pastor. He may be reached through the church office or directly by phone or text at 419-371-7977 or by email at wildearth42@gmail.com.

SACRED DAILY During Pastor Tucker's sabbatical there will not be a pastor to lead Sacred Daily. The chapel will still be available Mondays through Thursdays at or about 11:30 a.m. for private or group praying of Noon Prayer. The order of service and Bibles are in the chapel pews.

SEVERE STORMS, HURRICANES, AND NATURAL DISASTERS across the United States have left many without power and/or without homes. With your support our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors as they rebuild. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that survivors don't have to face the road to recovery alone. Through these disasters and others across the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities for as long as the recovery process takes. Together we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need. There are Lutheran Disaster Response envelopes in the narthex or you may mark your gift Lutheran Disaster Response.

THE APOSTLE BUILD will be September 23rd for house #71. Social Ministry will partner with St. John's Lutheran church to help finish trim at that house at 1664 Bishop Lane, Findlay. We will need 4 volunteers for each shift and helpers for Hospitality that day. Watch for more details as time gets closer.

THE 2026 FLOWER CHART is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

SAVE THE DATE!

Trunk or Treat will take place on October 18th, 4 – 5:30pm. More info to follow!

OPEN POSITION: The position of Building Manager is available. Duties include opening and closing the church building, and the keep up and maintenance of the building. If interested, please contact Pastor Tucker or Casey Cox.

MILITARY MINISTRY Social Ministry is trying to keep the Military Ministry active and going. Beverly Horn had given it up due to her illness. She is starting to feel better and is contemplating trying to pick it up again, but would appreciate help as she would not be able to take it on by herself. This would involve contacting families of our military and getting updated photos and addresses. Please pray about trying to help with this project and contact Beverly Horn 567 305 0378 if you are willing to assist with this very valuable ministry. Thank you.

DINNERS FOR 8

Take a look at the bulletin board to sign up for Dinners for 8 starting in September. This will be a way for our congregation to grow in community and get to know each other better!