

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

PRELUDE

Becky Retherford

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our hope, our heart, our home. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
**we confess that we participate in systems
that perpetuate oppression and injustice.**
**We are often numb to the pain of the world around us,
resistant to change that costs us something,
and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.**
**We sin against your good creation,
failing to be faithful stewards
of the land, the sea, and all their creatures.**
**Make your home among us once more, O God,
naming us beloved and opening our hearts
to do your will. Amen.**

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:
God knows you,
forgives you by the self-giving of ☩ Jesus Christ,
and frees you to love the world as you have been loved.
Creation's story will not end
until mourning, crying, and pain are no more.
When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.
Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW #819 “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;
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.

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.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 103:8-13

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

you will not always accuse us,
 nor will you keep your anger forever.
**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
 nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
 so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
**As far as the east is from the west,
 so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
 As a father has compassion for his children,
 so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

Word

BIBLE READING Romans 14:1-12

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #646- vs. 1, 2 "The Peace of The Lord"

- 1 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord
 the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
 the peace of the Lord is for you and for me,
 and also for all of God's children.
 The peace of the Lord is for you and for me,
 and also for all of God's children.

- 2 The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord,
 the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
 the peace of the Lord is among us right now,
 so open yourselves to receive it.
 The peace of the Lord is among us right now,
 so open yourselves to receive it.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON

Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY TFF #292 "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
 give thanks to the Holy One,
 give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
 Give thanks with a grateful heart,
 give thanks to the Holy One,
 give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
 let the poor say, "I am rich,"
 because of what the Lord has done for us.
 And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
 let the poor say, "I am rich,"
 because of what the Lord has done for us.
 Give thanks!

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO CHILDREN

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.

Responses: 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.**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING & HYMN ELW #678 vs 1, 3 (*alt. Tune - ELW #712*)

"God Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

- 1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off'ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

- 3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITANY OF FAREWELL

Let us pray. God of all creation, **whose love for all is trustworthy and true, help each of us to trust in the future which rests in your care. Guide us as we carry cherished memories with us in new directions until that time when we are completely one with you and with one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Creator God + bless you and keep you.

Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.

Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #543 "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

- 1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
 Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
 In my love's baptismal river
 I have made you mine forever.
 Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

- 2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Here you heard my dear Son's story,
 here you touched him, saw his glory.
 Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

- 3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
 Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
 Here my Spirit's power filled you,
 here my tender comfort stilled you.
 Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.