



Lord, how often  
should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21

Complete Worship Folder

September 17, 2023 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

September 20, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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### Welcome and Announcements

Hymn: "The Peace of the Lord" (ELW 646)

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.

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.

The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord,  
the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:  
the peace of the Lord kept within cannot live,  
so open yourselves now to share it.  
The peace of the Lord kept within cannot live,  
so open yourselves now to share it.

### 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: 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.**

Children's Message (10:30 a.m.)

### First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>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?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'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. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants 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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" (ELW 519 *verse 2 and Refrain*)

They who have ears to hear the message,  
they who have ears, now let them hear;  
they who would learn the way of wisdom,  
let them hear God's word.

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!  
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Where Charity and Love Prevail" (ELW 359)

Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love we thus are bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear,  
God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.

Let us recall that in our midst  
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;  
as members of each body joined,  
in him we are made one.

Let strife among us be unknown;  
let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek;  
be his our only peace.

Let us forgive each other's faults  
as we our own confess,  
that we may love each other well  
in Christian gentleness.

## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 of the Children of God

Each petition ends...Merciful God,

**Congregation responds...receive our prayer.**

### Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering / Noisy Offering

Offering Song: "As the Grains of Wheat" (ELW 465)

**Refrain** As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all your people from all the ends of earth  
be gathered into one in you.

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of your love. **Refrain**

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come  
when all creation shares this feast with you. **Refrain**

### Offering Prayer

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### Thanksgiving

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

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**C: 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 / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Communion Songs: “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive” (ELW 605)

"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.

How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
how trifling others' debts to us;  
how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, by your mercy reconciled,  
our lives will spread your peace.

“Healer of Our Every Ill” (ELW 612)

**Refrain** Healer of our ev'ry ill,  
light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear,  
and hope beyond our sorrow.

You who know our fears and sadness,  
grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. **Refrain**

In the pain and joy beholding  
how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love. **Refrain**

Give us strength to love each other,  
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. **Refrain**

You who know each thought and feeling,  
teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. **Refrain**

“Jesus, Remember Me” (ELW 616)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

### Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

### Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen**

### Blessing

P: The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: "Salaam Aleikum"

Salaam aleikum le, salaam aleikum le,  
salaam aleikum le, salaam aleikum le.  
Salaam aleikum le, salaam aleikum le,  
salaam aleikum le, salaam aleikum le.

Salaaam aleikum, Hoyah!  
salaam aleikum, Hoyah!  
Salaam aleikum, Hoyah, hoyah, hoyah, hoyah, hoyah!

Salaaam aleikum, Hoyah!  
salaam aleikum, Hoyah!  
Salaam aleikum, Hoyah, hoyah, hoyah, hoyah, hoyah!

May peace be in your hearts,  
May peace be in your homes,  
May peace be in your land,  
May peace be in our world.

May peace be in your hearts,  
May peace be in your homes,  
May peace be in your land,  
May peace be in our world.

Salaaam aleikum, Hoyah!  
salaam aleikum, Hoyah!  
Salaam aleikum, Hoyah, hoyah, hoyah, hoyah, hoyah!

Salaaam aleikum, Hoyah!  
salaam aleikum, Hoyah!  
Salaam aleikum, Hoyah, hoyah, hoyah, hoyah, hoyah!

### Dismissal

A: As an open and progressive congregation,

**C: we boldly make Christ's vision known.**

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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