

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24th, 2023



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DIVINE SERVICE I

Hymn ----- Chief of Sinners Though I Be

CW 385

1. Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine, I am his and he is mine!
2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity,  
Love that found me-wondrous thought!-  
Found me when I sought him not.
3. Only Jesus can impart Comfort to a wounded heart:  
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.
4. Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me.  
All my wants to him are known; All my sorrows are his own.  
Safe with him in earthly strife, I await the heav'nly life.
5. Strengthen me, O gracious Lord, By your Spirit and your word.  
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

*Stand.*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

*Lord, Have Mercy*

*Kyrie*

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy  
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

*Glory Be to God*

*Gloria in Excelsis*

Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his 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! Glo - ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



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, re -

ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. 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. Glo - ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

*Prayer of the Day*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Be seated.*

THE WORD

**First Lesson ----- Genesis 50:15–21**

When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him.”

They sent the following message to Joseph: “Before he died your father commanded us, ‘You are to tell Joseph, “Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil

to you.” Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father.”

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, “See now, we are your servants.”

Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. Now therefore do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones.” He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

**Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 103**

CW p.105

*Refrain*

**I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.**

Praise the LORD, O my soul;\*

all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

He forgives all your sins\*

and heals all your diseases;

he redeems your life from the grave\*

and crowns you with love and compassion.

*Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and gracious\*,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve\*

or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,\*

so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,\*

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

*Refrain*

As a father has compassion on his children,\*  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,\*  
he remembers that we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;\*  
the wind blows over it and it is gone.

But the LORD'S love is with those who fear him\*  
from everlasting to everlasting.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

**Second Lesson ----- Romans 14:5-9**

One person values one day above another.  
Another person values every day the same. Let  
each person be fully convinced in his own mind.  
The person who honors a certain day does this for  
the Lord, and the person who eats does this for the  
Lord, because he gives thanks to God. And the  
person who does not eat does this for the Lord and

gives thanks to God.

In fact, not one of us lives for himself, and  
not one dies for himself. Indeed, if we live, we live  
for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So  
whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For  
this reason he died, rose, and lived, to be Lord of  
both the dead and the living.

*Verse of the Day*

*Romans 15:4*

*Tune: CW 334*

C: All that was writ-ten in the past, Was giv'n that



we may now hold fast With pa-tience and en - dur -  
 ance true The hope which no-thing can un - do.

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*Stand.*

**Gospel ----- Matthew 18:21–35**

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

“Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

“So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had

mercy on you?’ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

### *Nicene Creed*

**C:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day ----- Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive**

CW 493

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:  
What trivial debts are owed to us;  
How great our debt to you!
4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
And bid resentment cease;  
Then, bound to all in bonds of love  
Our lives will spread your peace.

**Sermon ----- Matthew 18:21–35**

*Forgiveness without Limit*

*Stand.*

*After the sermon, the congregation sings:*

Cre - ate in me a  
 pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -  
 in me. Do not cast me a - way from your  
 pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from  
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -  
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*Be seated.*

*Offering*

*Stand.*

*Prayer of the Church*

*The minister calls for the petitions and the congregation prays with “**Lord, have mercy.**”*

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Online giving option:

[mluther.org/give](http://mluther.org/give)



Offerings support the spread

of the Gospel here and around the world.

- M: For freedom from grudges and an unforgiving spirit, that we may not be kept from God's forgiveness through our lack of mercy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For patience in trials, that like Joseph in Egypt, we, too, might learn to be slow to judge, quick to forgive, and steadfast in love for God and one another, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: In thanksgiving for the Holy Word and Sacraments, that they would be preserved among us; for faithful stewards of God's mysteries, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in Christ's name; and for all the baptized, that they would be faithful confessors of the hope that is in them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For the homes of God's people, that He would keep them from all harm and danger; and that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of His holy angels, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For all nations and leaders, that life and liberty might be defended; and that rulers and nations might strive toward all that is honorable, true and just, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For the sick and infirm, [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_,] that they may have patience to endure their time of suffering and that their days be crowned with God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: For gratitude as we receive Christ's body and blood, that having been forgiven a debt that only Christ could pay, we in turn may go out to serve others in the same spirit of forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**
- M: Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

*Lord's Prayer*

**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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: 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 till 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*

*Sanctus*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,  
 God of 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. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution*

M: 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.

C: Amen.

*O Christ, Lamb of God*

*Agnus Dei*



O Christ, Lamb of



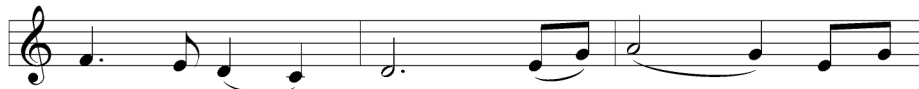
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



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



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

*Be seated.*



DISTRIBUTION

*In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.*

*During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymn:*

**Hymn ----- Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

CW 377

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,  
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How his right arm the vict'ry won.  
How dearly it has cost him!
2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.  
Yet deep and deeper still I fell; Life had become a living hell,  
So firmly sin possessed me.
3. My own good works availed me naught, No merit they attaining;  
My will against God's judgment fought, No hope for me remaining.  
My fears increased till sheer despair Left naught but death to be my share  
And hell to be my sentence.
4. But God beheld my wretched state Before the world's foundation,  
And, mindful of his mercies great, He planned my soul's salvation.  
A Father's heart he turned to me, Sought my redemption fervently;  
He gave his dearest treasure.
5. He spoke to his beloved Son: "Tis time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown, And bring mankind salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free; Slay bitter death for them that they  
May live with you forever."

6. The Son obeyed his Father's will, Was born of virgin mother,  
And, God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.  
No garb of pomp or pow'r he wore; A servant's form like mine he bore  
To lead the devil captive.
7. To me he spoke, "Hold fast to me-I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, your friend divine, And evermore you shall be mine;  
The foe shall not divide us.
8. "The foe shall shed my precious blood, Me of my life bereaving.  
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.  
Life shall from death the vict'ry win; My innocence shall bear your sin,  
And you are blest forever.
9. "Now to my Father I depart, The Holy Spirit sending  
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart, My help to you extending.  
He will a source of comfort be, Teach you to know and follow me,  
And in all truth will guide you.
10. "What I on earth have lived and taught Be all your life and teaching;  
So shall my kingdom's work be wrought And honored in your preaching.  
Take care that no one's man-made laws  
Should e'er destroy the gospel's cause.  
This final word I leave you."

*After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:*

*Song of Simeon*

*Nunc Dimittis*





ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my



eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for



ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the



glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

**Hymn ----- Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

CW 234

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen All that is needful has been  
Sent by his gracious ordaining?
3. Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of his mercy did shade you.
4. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do  
As with his love he befriends you.
5. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen Sound from his people again;  
Gladly forever adore him!

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