



September 13, 2026 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER

Our Gospel reading for this morning follows our reading from last Sunday. Jesus has just finished giving instructions on how to deal with sin, particularly how one should “go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone,” and what to do if he does not listen (Matt. 18:15-20). In response, Peter asks, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” (Matt. 18:21). Jesus goes on to talk about how those who follow behind Jesus do not forgive as *little* as seven times. Rather, they offer extravagant forgiveness! Not seven, but “seventy-seven times” (or “seventy times seven”) – in other words, extravagantly! (Matt. 18:22). Jesus goes on to illustrate this point through the parable of the unmerciful servant. This morning, then, we will talk about how Jesus has offered us extravagant forgiveness, forgiving us more than we could ever think or imagine. We, then, who follow behind Him, turn around and offer that same extravagant forgiveness to others.

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 606, “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”*

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us take a moment of silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN LSB 609, "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive," stanzas 1-4

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." ' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 103:1–12

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

Pastor: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

People: who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

Pastor: who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People: The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

Pastor: He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

People: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Pastor: He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

People: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Pastor: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

People: as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

EPISTLE READING *Romans 14:1–12*

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For 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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? 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 confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 18:21–35*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the eighteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 609, "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive," stanzas 5-7*

SERMON *"Extravagant Forgiveness"*

NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *LSB 783, "Take My Life and Let It Be"*

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,
People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answer us.
People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
All: 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.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN LSB 685, "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!

Next Week's Readings: September 20, 2026 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalms 27:1-9

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

Matthew 20:1-16

Service adapted from Divine Service setting 1 (LSB 151-166).



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of September 13, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: Don & Cindy Wolf
Good Shepherd, Carthage - Rev. Silas Mehl

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Christina Wienstroer (Cheryl Lile's daughter – for her difficulties)

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Mike & Edith - (friends of Sue Doss)
Tammy Ardrey – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)
Rick Bauer – (Gladys' son – health and healing)
Becky – (Cheryl Lile's friend – fighting an infection)
Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – (health and healing)
Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson–health and healing)
Stan Crandal - (recovery from surgery)
Charlene Dart - (Linda Myers' sister-in-law – cancer)
Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son of Teri)
McGee family – (health and healing)
The family of Nancy Keegan (hope and comfort)
Glenda – (Teri Ediger's step-mother – health and healing)

Long Term

Ardella – (health and healing)
Gladys Bauer – (health and healing)
Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Rev. Johannes Brann – (health and healing/peace and comfort)
Rev. Brian and Jessica Chisamore – (health and healing for Jessica)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
LD Cantrell – (brother-in-law of Charlie & Edee Chambers – hospice)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)

Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)
Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)
Jim Key (health and healing)
Beverly Lofton – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)
Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)

Emma S. – (recovery after hospital stay)
Rachel Sanford - (upcoming surgery)
William - (Ardella's son)
Tim Tucek– (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Baby Vada – (Cathy Munden's great grandchild – health and healing)
Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)
John White (health and healing)
Kandi Wood – (friend of Cathy Munden – hospital)

Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)
Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)

Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
Bill Thompson – (health and healing)

WEEK

Sunday	Sept. 13th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am – Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	Sept. 14th	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Wednesday	Sept. 16th	Bible Study – 6:00 pm
Thursday	Sept. 17th	Elders – 10:00 am Council – 11:00 am
Friday	Sept. 18th	Pastor's Day Off
Sunday	Sept. 20th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour, Bible Study 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	Sept. 21st	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm

Birthdays: Sept. 15-Christina Granderson
Anniversaries: None

September

Greeters

13-Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer
 20-Bill & Joanne Michel
 27-Charlie & Edee Chambers

Ushers

13-Harold Lampe
 20-Charlie Chambers
 27-David Lampe

Sunday Bible Class - Why do we begin the service with confession? Why does Pastor say "in the stead and by the command of Christ..."? Why do we have four Scripture readings every Sunday? Are they connected to each other? Is there any Biblical basis for why we do the things we do on Sunday morning? We will seek to answer these questions (and more) in our Sunday morning Bible class. If you've ever wondered why we worship the way we do, then come and join us!

Pastor will be gone on Sunday, September 20, for his niece's baptism in Lee's Summit, MO. He plans to leave the day before on Saturday, September 19. Pastor Ken Lampe has agreed to fill in for Bible class and worship on September 20 (thank you, Pastor Lampe). If something comes up that requires immediate pastoral care, please contact Pastor Lampe. Otherwise, feel free to contact Pastor Heitshusen and he will get back with you as soon as he is back in town.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class will resume THIS Wednesday, September 9, at 6:00 pm. We will meet in the fellowship hall in the basement. At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus commands that His disciples "Go and make disciples... baptizing... and teaching..." We have been made into His disciples through baptism. Now, what does it look like to live as a disciple of Jesus? What does He teach His disciples in His first sermon in Matthew's Gospel?

Trinity Lutheran Church, Freistatt, MO, invites you to attend a musical concert on September 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. The concert theme is “Faith, Freedom, and Our Nation Under God” and will include vocal and instrumental music, solos, duets, and choirs. In addition, there will be 4 congregation hymns emphasizing our God, our journey, our foundation, and our nation. Come and enjoy the music of “Faith, Freedom, and Our Nation Under God”. Please join us.

After the concert at 5:00 p.m. there will a historical presentation about **Trinity’s first teacher, Henry Nehrling**. This will take place in the Fellowship Hall at the school. There will be a light supper of sandwiches and hors d’oeuvres in the Fellowship Hall. Additional information in the narthex.

The Story of Hubert H.A. Kleiboeker’s WWII Experiences at Freistatt on September 21 at 6:30 p.m. Additional information in the narthex.