

Welcome to Worship

September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Beatrice Michals-Brown

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able.

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.

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.**

Gathering Hymn

482

I Come With Joy

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.

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

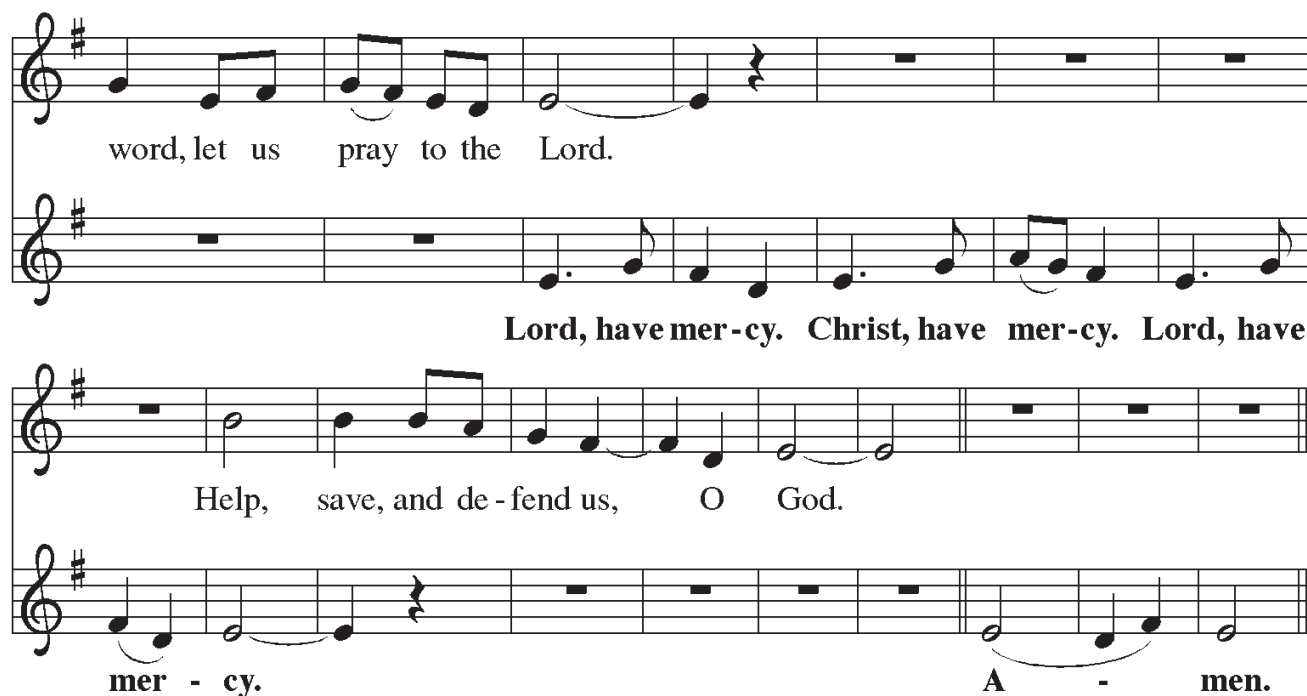
peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your



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.

The Word

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

Please be seated.

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?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, '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. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 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. 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

Psalm 103: 8-13

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.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 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. 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.

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. 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.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

174

Please stand as you are able.



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

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 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.**

Message

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day

Please stand as you are able.

605

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Please be seated.

Sharing of Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us offer one another a greeting of Christ's peace.

Please stand as you are able.

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.**

Meal

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

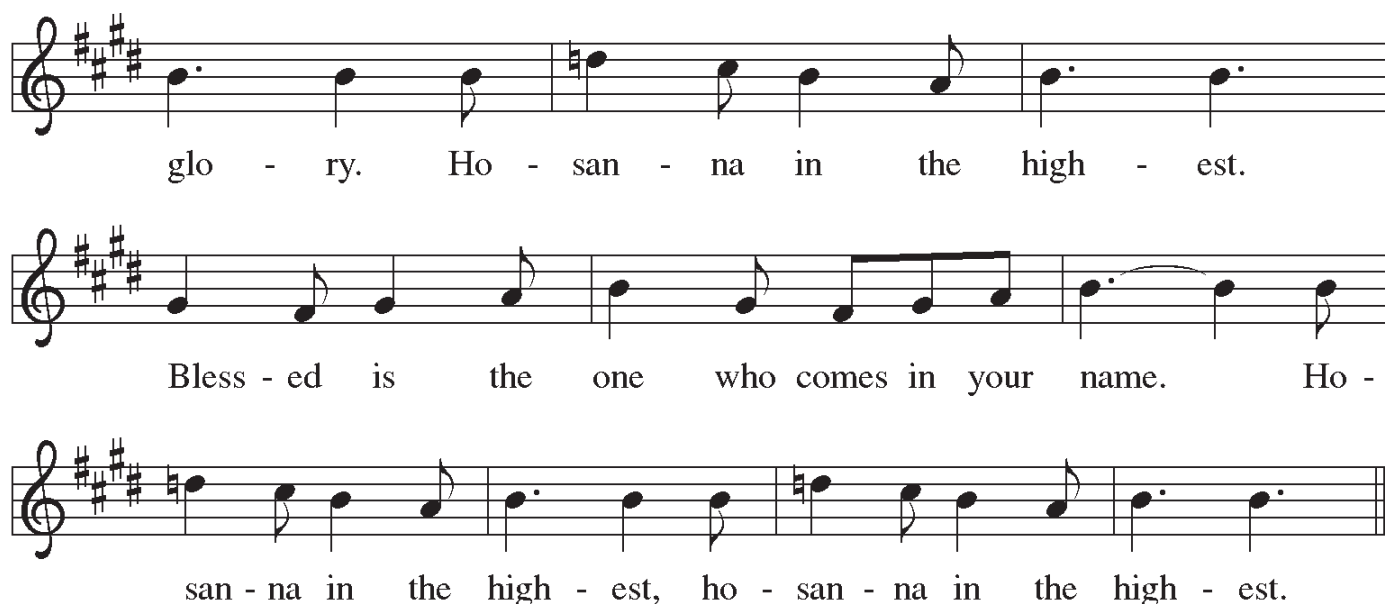
Preface

Holy

191

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion

Please be seated.

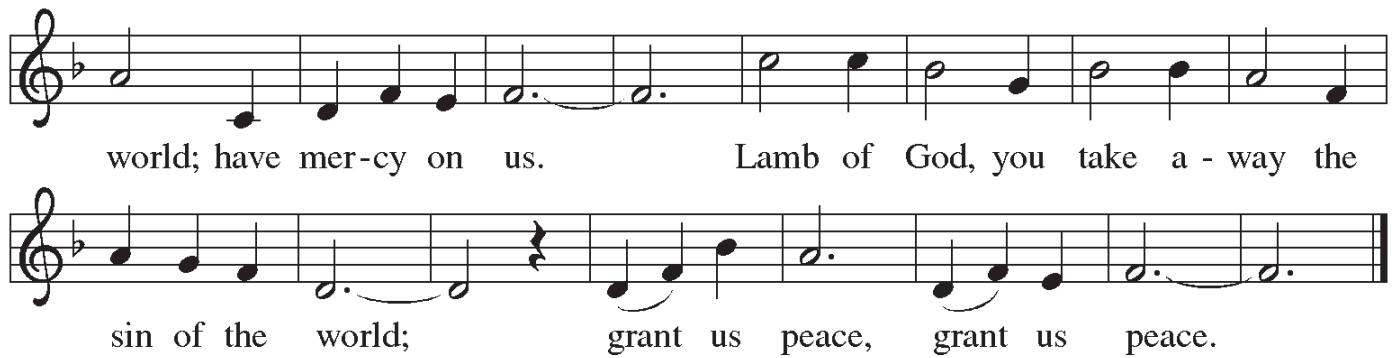
Lamb of God

195



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



Hymns during Communion

767
[over ↵]

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
Old Rugged Cross

Prayer after Communion

Please stand as you are able.

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.**

Sending

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

618

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

Dismissal

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

Postlude

On a Hill Far Away

The Old Rugged Cross



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross,
 2 Oh, that old rug - ged cross so de - spised by the world,
 3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true,



the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
 has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
 a won - drous beau - ty I see;
 its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
 for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,
 for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
 Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,



for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
 to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Refrain



So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my



tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged



cross, and ex - change it some day for a crown.