



ment that has
for·give (fər·giv
for·giv·ing v.t.

Peter came up and said to [Jesus],
“Lord, how often will my brother sin
against me, and I forgive him?”

-Matthew 18:21

Sunday, September 17, 2023
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme

A CHURCH THAT'S QUICK TO FORGIVE

“Pay it forward.” That phrase means that when someone does something for you, instead of paying that person back directly, you pass along kindness to another person instead. Doing something kind for someone else is a way of thanking the person who originally did something kind for you. Today God applies that concept to forgiveness. God forgave our countless sins. He was willing to pay an incomprehensible price—the death of his Son. Obviously, we will never have occasion to do the same for God. We will never have to forgive God because everything he does for us shows perfect love and care. God never wrongs us. But others may do us wrong. Others may cause us pain. And when we are quick to forgive, it is one way we thank God for being so quick to forgive us. This is what God wants in his Church—people who, like him, are quick to forgive.

Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day your mer - cy calls us To wash a -
 2 To - day your gate is o - pen, And all who
 3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly
 4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er



way our sin. How - ev - er great our tres - pass,
 en - ter in Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come
 Spir - it waits. His bless - ed an - gels gath - er
 o - pen Door, What should we do with - out you



What - ev - er we have been, How - ev - er long from
 And par - don for their sin. The past shall be for -
 A - round the heav'n - ly gates. No ques - tion will be
 When heart and eye run o'er? When all things seem a -



mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way, Your pre - cious
 got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n, A fu - ture
 asked us How of - ten we have come; Al - though we
 gainst us, To drive us to de - spair, We know one



blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
 grace be prom - ised: A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
 oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
 gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Opening Prayer

M: In the name of Jesus our Lord and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we call on you, dear heavenly Father:

C: Hear us for Your name's sake.

M: We approach you confidently this day, for we rely on Jesus, our Redeemer, for the full forgiveness of sins:

C: Receive our thankful worship for His sake.

M: By the Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and of Your will for our lives. Fill our hearts with joy and peace into eternity:

C: In You, O Lord, have we taken refuge; never let us be ashamed.

M: O Lord, our Rock and our Fortress, assure us that because you live, we shall live also:

C: In You we hope: Our praise is for You. Amen

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Old Testament

Genesis 50:15-21 (EHV)

Joseph's brothers had treated him badly. Joseph was quick to forgive them and free them from the prison of their past.

¹⁵When 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."

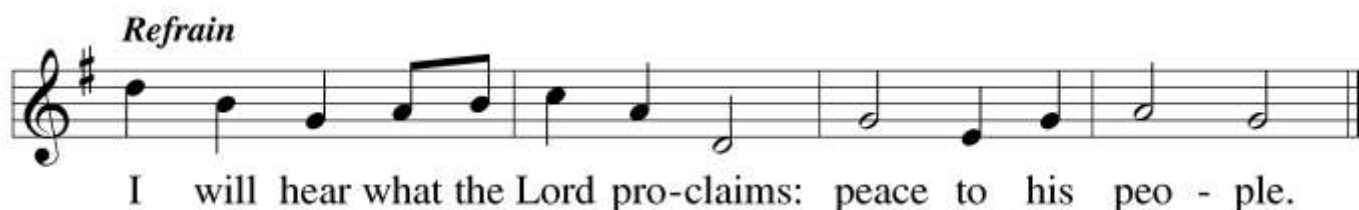
¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." ' Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You 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. ²¹Now 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
103 (CW p. 105)



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

Epistle
Ephesians 4:29-5:2 (EHV)

St. Paul teaches that kindness, compassion, and forgiveness are marks of God's Church.

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³²Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Bear with each other and forgive one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Alleluia. (Colossians 3:13)

C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel
Matthew 18:21-35 (EHV)

Through a parable Jesus teaches that the ability to forgive others comes when the Spirit enables us to understand how much God has forgiven us.

²¹Then 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?"

²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Because 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.

²⁶"Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, 'Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!' ²⁷The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸"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!' ²⁹"So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!' ³⁰But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³²“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

M: This is the Gospel of the LORD.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

493 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” You
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless The
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And



taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us; How great our debt to you!
 bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

Sermon Text & Theme

Matthew 18:21-35. . . Forgiveness That Knows No Limit

- 1) Is the forgiveness we receive.
- 2) Is the forgiveness we offer.

Offertory Prayer

Rite of Confirmation for Marie Thérèse Amba Bombanga

(The Confirmand is invited to stand before the altar)

M: Sister in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

In obedience to the Lord’s command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord’s body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

M: Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in Baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

R: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

R: **I do.**

M: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure all things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R: **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

M: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in the use of the Word and sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

R: **I do, and I ask God to help me.**

(The minister addresses the congregation)

M: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for Marie Thérèse, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in her. Let us, therefore, bow our heads and pray.

Prayer

M: Almighty God, in Baptism you made Marie Thérèse a member of the body of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. You washed her by his blood, buried her with him in his death, and gave her a new life in his resurrection. Renew her by the Holy Spirit, which you have poured out on her generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. Let her live out her life as an heir of eternal life. Lead her to serve your Church in holiness and righteousness all her days. Keep her in fellowship with all who wait for the return of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Individual Blessing

M: Marie Thérèse, may God the Father who created you, may God the Son who redeemed you, may God the Holy Spirit who sanctified you keep you faithful unto life everlasting.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

M: Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given to you by God through his Church; receive this Sacrament thankfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God—Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you To re -
 2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly
 3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us



ceive the food of your Ho - ly Word.
 rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty.
 grasp the heights of your plans for us.



Take your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and
 Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes In the
 Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, That will



fash - ion us in your like - ness That the
 ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our
 e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to-day In our acts of
 faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic
 grace we'll stand on your pro - mis-es, And by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
 love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
 walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, as your



fill in us All your pur - pos-es for your
 nev - er fail, Let their truth pre-vail o - ver
 Church is built And you fill the earth with your



glo - ry.
 un - be - lief.
 glo - ry.

Confession and Absolution
(Please stand)

M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

C: I do confess!

M: It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

C: I do repent!

M: It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*" (1 John 1:8)

3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

C: I do believe!

M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, "*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16)

4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, "I do so promise!"

C: I do so promise!

M: It is right for you to promise because God's Word says, "*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*" (Matthew 3:8)

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."

M: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Amen.

Distribution

Thanksgiving

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.

Prayer of the Church

(CW p. 127)

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, provincial, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

C: Amen.



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior,
 2 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us,
 3 Bind us all as one to - geth - er
 4 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers,



Source of life and truth and grace, Word made
 King of love and Prince of Peace; Hush the
 In your Church's sa - cred fold, Weak and
 So may we for oth - ers live. Free - ly



flesh, whose birth a - mong us, Hon - ors
 storm of strife and pas - sion; Bid its
 health - y, poor and wealth - y, Sad and
 have your gifts been grant - ed; Free - ly



all our hu - man race, You our head,
 cru - el dis - cords cease. By your pa -
 joy - ful, young and old. Is there want
 may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold



who, throned in glo - ry, For your own will
 tient years of toil - ing, By your si - lent
 or pain or sor - row? Make us all the
 and yours the sil - ver, Yours the wealth of



ev - er plead: Fill us with your love and
 hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered thirst for
 bur - den share, Are there spir - its crushed and
 land and sea; We but stew - ards of your



pit - y; Heal our wrongs and help our need.
 plea - sure; Stem our self - ish greed for gain.
 bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
 boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO WEEK CALENDAR

Su (17)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 12:00 am 3:00 pm	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship & Communion Coffee Hour Divine Sisters Meeting Worship and Communion in Poltimore
Tu (19)	6:30 pm	Elders' Meeting
Th (21)	6:30 pm 6:00 pm	Youth Confirmation (W) Illuminé (at St. Paul's)
Fr (22)	4:30 pm	Youth Confirmation (D)
Su (24)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 11:45 pm	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship Coffee Hour Voters' Meeting
We (27)	6:30 pm	"Test the Spirit's" Bible Information Class.
Th (28)	6:30 pm 6:00 pm	Youth Confirmation (W) Illuminé (at St. Paul's)
Fr (29)	4:30 pm	Youth Confirmation (D)
Su (1)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 3:00 pm	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship & Communion First Fellowship Worship and Communion in Poltimore

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

September 24 – Barnabas // October 1 – Luke

New Bible Information Class

Do you know someone who wants to learn more about what we teach, or would you want to review the basics to help you share your faith with others? Then please attend our New Bible Information Class entitled: “Test the Spirits” (written by former Divine Word Pasto Allen Lindke). The next lesson will be on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm starting September 27th. All are welcome. Feel free to contact Pastor Sullivan for more information.

Voters’ Meeting

On Sunday, September 24. All Voters are encouraged to attend.

Divine Call

Pastor recently received a divine call to serve a relatively new mission in Mansfield, OH. Please keep him in your prayers as he prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance as to where he may best serve in Christ's kingdom with the gifts the LORD has given him: in Barrhaven & Poltimore or Mansfield.



Divine Word

Evangelical Lutheran Church

1081 Greenbank Rd.,
Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8
613-825-1629

www.divinewordottawa.ca