

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
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INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



- 1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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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.**



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's 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.



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.



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. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Please sit

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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. ²¹So 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

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹**you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³**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

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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



GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

²¹Peter 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?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So 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.**

Please stand

HOMILY

Please stand

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



- 1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Ushers will come by to collect today's offering, or you can use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM

As You Serve, Remember Me

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

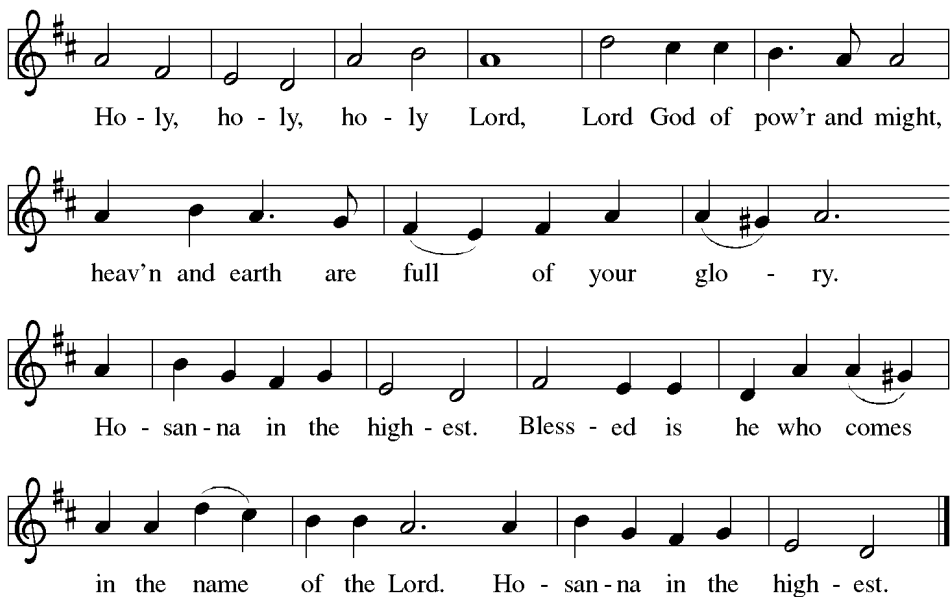
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

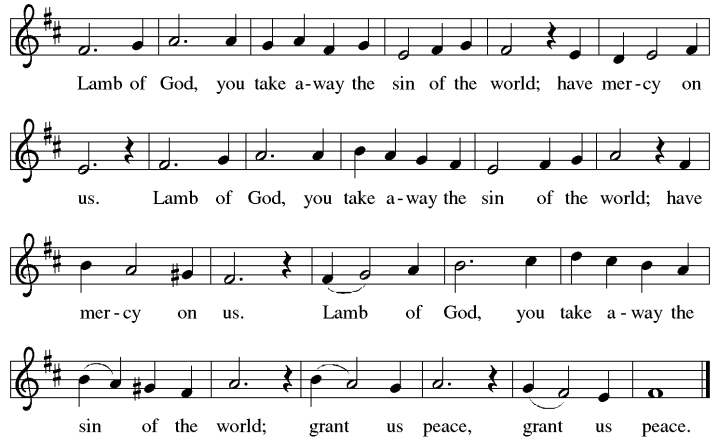
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please sit

LAMB OF GOD



MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, when your Son Jesus gathered a crowd and blessed the loaves and fish, all ate and were filled. And still there was more. In your love and care, extend this meal to all who will receive it. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence and the courage to be the body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

FAMILY TIME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

Please stand

SENDING HYMN

Wonderful Grace of Jesus

1 Won-der - ful grace of Je - sus, great - er than all my sin;
2 Won-der - ful grace of Je - sus, reach - ing to all the lost,
3 Won-der - ful grace of Je - sus, reach - ing the most de - filed,

how shall my tongue de - scribe it, where shall its praise be - gin?
by it I have been par - doned, saved to the ut - ter - most.
by its trans - form - ing pow - er I now am God's dear child.

Tak - ing a - way my bur - den, set - ting my spir - it free—
Chains have been torn a - sun - der, giv - ing me lib - er - ty—
Pur - chas - ing peace and heav - en for all e - ter - ni - ty—

the won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.
the won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.
the won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.

Refrain

Won - der - ful the match - less grace of Je - sus, deep - er than the might - y roll - ing
sea; high - er than the moun - tain, spar - kling like a foun - tain,
all suf - fi - cient grace for e - ven me; broad - er than the scope of my trans -
gres - sions, great - er far than all my sin and shame; oh,
mag - ni - fy the pre - cious name of Je - sus, praise his name!

Text: Haldor Lillenas, 1885–1959
Music: WONDERFUL GRACE, Haldor Lillenas, 1885–1959

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.
Thanks be to God!

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"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death"

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

"Wonderful Grace of Jesus"



Today we are joined by **Rev. Pedro M. Suárez** of the Florida-Bahamas Synod which encompasses the other ELCA Lutheran congregations across Florida (and the Bahamas.) Bishop Suárez has served in his position since 2018 and is in his 2nd elected term. Before that he served as Pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Pompano Beach and as interim Director for Evangelical Mission for the Florida-Bahamas Synod. He also served in Texas, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

Born in Venezuela, Suárez earned the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from the Seminario Evangelico Asociado in Venezuela in 1980. He earned an MDiv from the Lutheran School of Theology in

Chicago (LSTC) in 1992. Bishop Suárez is married to ELCA Deacon Aura Suárez. They have 2 adult children and 5 grandchildren.



GRANDPARENTS' DAY CELEBRATION

Following the service this morning we are celebrating Grandparents!. There is a Photo Booth, Games, Crafts, and activities for all ages! Please join us with or without your grandchildren or grandparents present. We will have a snack of fruit, cheese, crackers and fresh vegetables!

Monthly Financial Summary

	Monthly: July 2026			YTD: January - July 2026		
	Total	Church	Little Lambs	Total	Church	Little Lambs
Budgeted Expenses	\$79,669	\$25,847	\$53,822	\$565,015	\$188,261	\$376,754
Actual Expenses	\$88,750	\$28,998	\$59,753	\$613,426	\$217,817	\$395,608
Budgeted Giving / Income	\$81,294	\$20,356	\$60,938	\$570,714	\$144,148	\$426,566
Actual Giving / Income	\$88,866	\$33,384	\$55,483	\$586,574	\$125,154	\$461,420
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$116	\$4,386	(\$4,270)	(\$26,852)	(\$92,663)	\$65,812
Annual Deficit will be funded from the Good Shepherd Bank Reserves			Balances as of July 31, 2026			
			Bank Reserves			\$231,343

The following items are excluded from the Summary above

- 1. Capital Expenditures of \$148,109 funded from our investment account**
(Air Conditioning, Painting, Landscaping, Little Lambs Playground & Shed)
- 2. Giving / Income of \$150,384 transferred in from our investment account**

In-person attendance last week:

Assisting in Today's Service

Florida-Bahamas Synod Bishop, Rev. Pedro M. Suárez

Rev. Keith Walbolt

Deacon

Lector

Communion Assistants

Ushers

Greeters

Gini ZeRuth

Bret Meyer

Gini ZeRuth

Nancy Meyer

Eric Pera

Tom Crouse

Laura Blauvelt

Eric Pera

Good Shepherd Council Members

Nancy Meyer	Diane Supplee
Kate Herrington	John Mennel
David Mickley	Erica Ottmann
Patti Nickol	Gus Dueben
Laura Blauvelt	Keith Walbolt

Church Treasurer

Dave Supplee

Opportunities for September 13, 2026 – September 20, 2026

Sunday, September 13, 2026

9:45am Worship Service

Florida-Bahamas Synod Bishop Pedro Suarez will be leading worship today.

11:00am Grandparents' Day Celebration Following Service

Coffee & Fellowship

Monday, September 14, 2026

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

10:00am Staff Meeting

Quilting – Quilting Room

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

9:05am Preschool Chapel

Thursday, September 17, 2026

8:30am Gardeners

Friday, September 18, 2026

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Sunday, September 20, 2026

9:45am Worship Service

Coffee & Fellowship

11:00am Messy Church