

# Lord, how often should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21



Edinburg Lutheran Parish  
St. Jacob's & Zion Congregations

September 13, 2026

Pastor Katie Gosswein Parsonage: 984-9260 Cell: 335-7758

<https://elpva.org/>



**Remembering those who have requested prayer:** Steve Baker, Joan Bowers, Tom Burner, Steve & Linda Campbell, Leannah Comer, Donnie Cook, Roe Dias, Virginia Duncan, Todd Edgerton, Carla Eickenhorst, Virginia Estep, Landon Fadely, Diane Funkhouser, Lynette George, Chuck Givens, Harper & Luther Gochenour, Peggy Graff, Podge Green,

Terry Grigsby, Belle Hamman, Martha Harlow, Mike & Rebecca Harlow, Tim Harlow, Betty Helsley, Barbara Hollar, Ronnie Hoffman, Sonny Hovatter, Buck Jones, Jim Lam, Brian Lear, Chris LoPresti, Wade Ludwig, Keith Manich, Erich & Glenn McMinn, Donna Mumaw, Jerry Newland, Jerry & Judy Polk, Larry Polk, Karen Polk, Tony Reynard, Sherrie Ritenour, Steve Ritenour, Laurie Robinson, Sandy Ross, Roger Schmitt, Peter Shoemaker, Ed Sine, Keith Taylor, Judy Tharp, John Wymer, and Christine Zuniga.

## W O R S H I P S C H E D U L E

**NEXT SUNDAY:** September 20 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**8:30 Worship** will be a Service of the Word at Zion.

**9:45 Adult Sunday School** meets at both churches.

**11:00 Worship** will be a Service of the Word at St. Jacob's.

Call-in worship is always offered at the 11:00 service.

Conference call: (425) 436-6395 Toll Free: (844)-854-2222

Access Code: 377656 #

## D I D Y O U K N O W ?

Joseph lived a challenging life—the second-to-youngest of twelve sons, sold into slavery, mistreated on multiple occasions. Yet despite these trials, he remained steadfast and committed to following Christ. At the end of his life, God rewarded Joseph by promoting him to second-in-command over Egypt and by using him to save his people and family from famine and starvation.

## A N N O U N C E M E N T S

**Everybody loves a parade!!** Come join us next Saturday for the Ole Time Festival Edinburg Parade! We'll meet at the parsonage (129 N. High St.) around noon to get in the line-up for the event. Some will be walking and others riding!

**Wednesday in the Word** – will continue our discussion and Bible study on the two natures of Jesus Christ...both human and divine. There is always a seat just waiting for you!

**St. Jacob Council** will meet tomorrow, Monday, September 14 at 6:30.

**Zion will host Mt. Jackson Lions** tomorrow, Monday, September 14. Check with Ann Ward if you'd like to help!

**This Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.** Mark Ludlow will speak at the Edinburg Heritage Center (formerly St. Paul UCC) in Edinburg on ground penetrating radar, which helps identify unmarked graves. We may be considering using his services for Zion cemetery, so you are invited to come, learn more.

**Caroline Furnace Camp** is having a work weekend September 18-20, tackling projects from painting to roof repairs. Come for the whole time, or just the hours you can spare.

**Zion Cleaning Day** is 9 AM on Saturday, October 3.

**Spring Forward** brochures for the 2026-2027 school year are available in the entryway. Please be encouraged to share them with families who have elementary-aged children that would benefit from this wonderful program. Registration is September 29 from 4-6 PM.

**Are you up for a fun evening planned to support a great organization?** Weekday Religious Education-Bible Break is having their annual Banquet and Silent Auction from 5 – 8 PM on Saturday, October 3. Tickets are \$35 for individuals, and if we have 8 who would like to attend, we'll be able to get a small discount and sponsor a table. Registrations are at 271 and still coming in. We hope to break 300 this year! Sign up with Pastor Katie.

**Bottoms Up!!** Come out for another fun event to support A Small Hand Diaper Bank! Thursday, September 17 – 6 PM at the Woodstock Brewhouse there will be live music – The Instigators – great raffle items and wonderful fellowship! Buy your own food & drink, purchase raffle tickets and/or make a free will offering, but especially have fun!



**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after  
Pentecost**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**September 13, 2026**

**Welcome** – Pictures today are from the past month.

**Confession and  
Forgiveness**

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

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.**

***Silence is kept for reflection.***

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.**

***Assurance and Forgiveness***

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, 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**

### **Gathering Hymn** # 522 *As We Gather at Your Table*



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

### **Apostolic 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.**



# Canticle of Praise

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Refrain*

## Prayer of the Day

## God's Word



## Today's Readings

Genesis 50:15-21  
Psalm 103:1-13  
Romans 14:1-12

## Gospel Acclamation

Page 102

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## The Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter, beginning with the 21<sup>st</sup> verse...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

***The reading of the Gospel***

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon



## Hymn of the Day # 605 *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.

## Nicene Creed *We speak together the words of our faith*

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

### Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy...

**Hear our prayer**



### Offering Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, You bring forth food  
from the earth and nourish Your whole creation. Turn our  
hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may  
know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the  
bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### Offertory # 359

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

Where charity and love prevail,  
there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love,  
by love we thus are bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear,  
God's charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.

Let us forgive each other's faults,  
as we our own confess;  
That we may love each other well  
in Christian gentleness.

## 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.** (Page 108)

## + Words of Consecration +

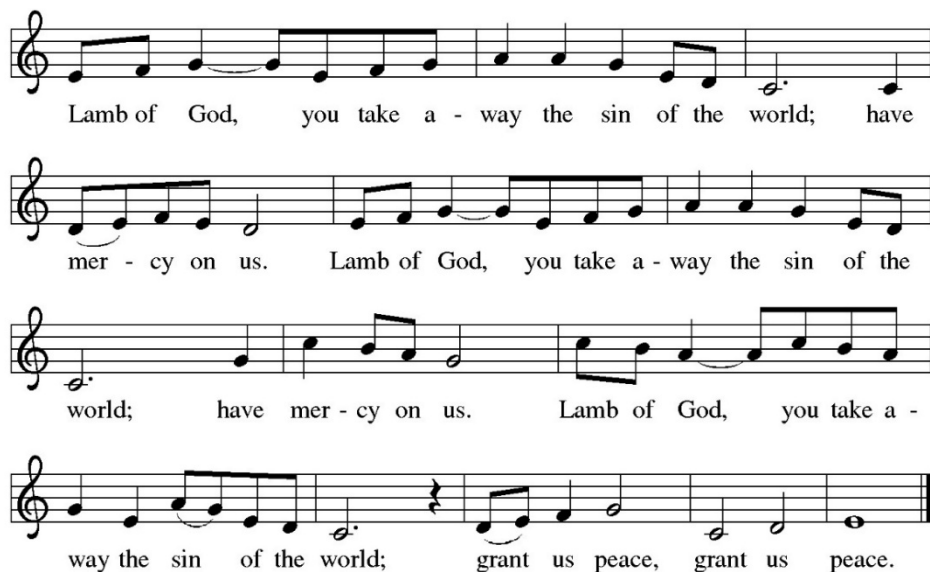


## The Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

## Lamb of God



## Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you....  
Come, taste, and see.



## Partaking of Communion

*In the sanctuary, we will commune at the altar railing. Those at home are invited to commune at the beginning, as the Pastor invites them.*



## Now Lord...

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

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

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in treble clef. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the corresponding notes.

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We thank You, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. **Amen.**

## Blessing

*Numbers 6:24-26*

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor,  
+ and give you peace. **Amen**

## **Sending Hymn** #618 *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but You are mighty;  
hold me with Your pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven  
Feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain  
Where the healing waters flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,  
shield me with Your mighty arm,  
shield me with Your mighty arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs and praises, songs and praises  
I will raise forevermore, I will raise forevermore.

## **Sending**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God!**





*It was great having some of our annual visitors from Ohio join us for 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – August 30...Marty Helsley, Cae Helsley, PK, Al Helsley & Jimmy Ryan!*





*It was wonderful to visit Virginia Estep on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>  
at Shenandoah Place in New Market!  
Gary & Ellen Dellinger and Alan & Martha Dodson were  
followed by Pastor Katie! Quite an afternoon!*



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

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

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

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

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

<sup>12</sup>So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

## Gospel

## Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



# Today's Readings

Sunday, September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## First Reading

## Genesis 50:15-21

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?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'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. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

## Psalm

## Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; tone 6



[Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup> O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless God's <sup>1</sup> holy name.  
<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup> O my soul,  
and forget not <sup>1</sup> all God's benefits—  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives <sup>1</sup> all your sins  
and heals all <sup>1</sup> your diseases;  
<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life <sup>1</sup> from the grave  
and crowns you  
with steadfast <sup>1</sup> love and mercy;  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires  
<sup>1</sup> with good things  
so that your youth is renewed  
<sup>1</sup> like an eagle's.  
<sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide <sup>1</sup> vindication  
and justice for all who <sup>1</sup> are oppressed.  
<sup>7</sup>You made known your <sup>1</sup> ways to Moses  
and your works  
to the chil- <sup>1</sup> dren of Israel.]

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compas- <sup>1</sup> sion  
and mercy,  
slow to anger  
and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love;  
<sup>9</sup>you will not al- <sup>1</sup> ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- <sup>1</sup> ger forever.  
<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us  
according <sup>1</sup> to our sins,  
nor repaid us  
according to <sup>1</sup> our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high  
a- <sup>1</sup> bove the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love  
for <sup>1</sup> those who fear you.  
<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is <sup>1</sup> from the west,  
so far have you removed  
our transgres- <sup>1</sup> sions from us.  
<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion <sup>1</sup> for his children,  
so you have compassion  
for those who fear <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD.