

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023



"Peter 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?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'"

Matthew 18:21-22

ZION
Ministries Under the Cross
Deerfield Beach, Florida

Welcome to Zion!

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

(Psalm 95:1-2)



Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we're glad you're here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God's goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God's gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

Today's Worship

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.

We Gather

GATHERING HYMN

"Before the Waters Nourished Earth"



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined³ morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



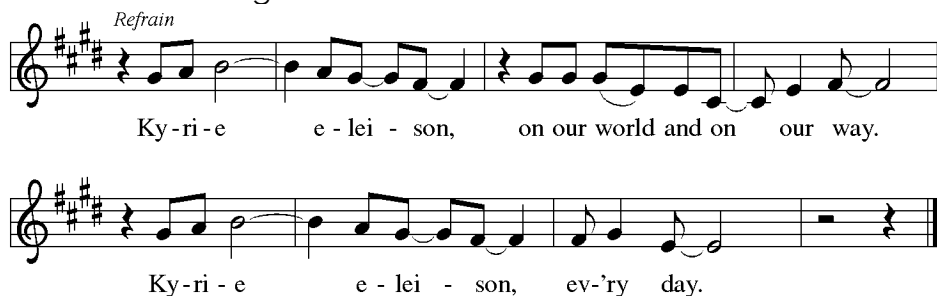
u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

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.**

KYRIE

The Cantor will sing the verses.



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.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

*The readings are found on the "Today's Readings" insert.
The page numbers refer to the red Bible in the pew rack.*

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21 (p. 40)

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

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 103:1-13

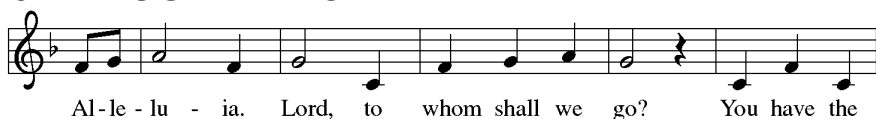
Using the psalm tone printed on the insert, the Cantor and the assembly will chant the Psalm responsively.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12 (p. 804)

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35 (pp. 695-696)

Before the reading:

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew...

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

These are the words of our Lord. They are true and can be trusted. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ALL

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymn #721

"Goodness is Stronger Than Evil"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR HEALING

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Feast at the Lord's Table

THE 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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

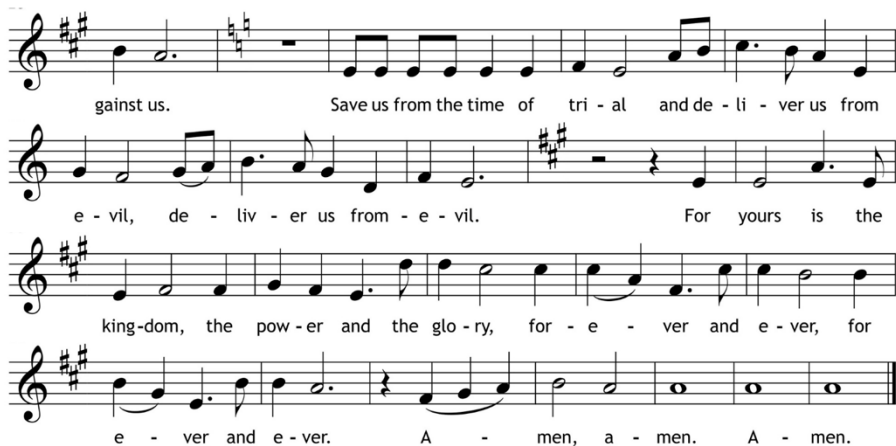
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Music by Cantor Peter J. Rizzo

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal-low-ed be your
name, hal-low-ed be your name. Your king-dom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our
sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for-give those who sin a -



SHARING THE MEAL with ANOINTING FOR HEALING

Christ's table is open to all! We offer grape juice for those who desire. If, for reasons of conscience or health, you are unable to receive either the bread or the wine, please know that the Church affirms the full presence of Christ in each element.

"Mighty to Save"

Everyone needs compassion, love that's never failing;
let mercy fall on me.

Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior;
the hope of nations.

Chorus: Savior, He can move the mountains,
Our God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.

So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures,
fill my life again.

I give my life to follow everything I believe in,
now I surrender. **Chorus**

Bridge: Shine your light and let the whole world see,
We're singing for the glory of the risen King...Jesus **Repeat**

BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

The assembly responds: Amen.

We Are Sent into the World

SONG & PRAYER FOR SENDING

Hymn #525

“You Are Holy”

Let us pray together...**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

The assembly responds: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Hymn #538

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins. Go in peace. Christ is sending you. **Thanks be to God.**

License & Copyright Information

Portions of the liturgy are from Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2023 Augsburg Fortress.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS014917.

Hymns and songs reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-731250 and CCLI License #1376892. **Scripture quotations** from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, © 1989

by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA and used by permission. All rights reserved.



ZION
Ministries Under the Cross

959 SE 6th Avenue • Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
(954) 421-3146 • www.zion-lutheran.org



Today's Readings

Sunday, September 17, 2023

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

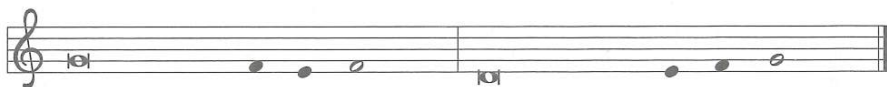
Genesis 50:15-21

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?"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.

Psalm

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



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

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

Welcome 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.

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter 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."

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God is merciful and gracious, full of love.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Tuesday	Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge one another
Wednesday	2 John 1:1-6	Truth and love
Thursday	Lamentations 3:18-24	There is still hope
Friday	2 Peter 1:1-11	Do all you can to show God's love
Saturday	Psalms 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of mercy and grace, give us hearts full of compassion, ready to forgive others as you have forgiven us through Christ Jesus, who died that we may live. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

God of abundant love, we thank you for this food that you give to us and to all. Help us to share your goodness and mercy with others through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of mercy and grace who sustains you, give you joy.



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*The Numberless Gifts of
God's Mercies*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How do you respond when you are in conflict with a particular person or group?
- Jesus sets us free to love others. What does this mean to you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Romans 14:1-12.

The world is divided in many ways. Countries are divided into parties and loyalties. Families can be divided by strong and diverse views. Even congregations can be divided by different viewpoints. Paul gives us a word that we need to hear today. We are to keep the main thing the main thing, and that is this: Christ died to be the Lord of all. Therefore, why pass judgment and despise those for whom Christ died? As the saying goes, "When you look into the eyes of another, you are looking at someone God loves." Be careful not to judge and condemn. As Psalm 103:8 reminds us, "*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*" Our God who is slow to anger should be a strong caution to us not to be quick to judge. Whether it is over diet, piety, political or economic convictions, our judgments will all pass away, but God's judgment is eternal, and that judgment is most clearly seen from the cross of Christ. Jesus died for us that we may be set free to love others, in spite of our differences.

Discuss: What relationship do you have with someone where you could use a kinder word to reconcile that relationship through Christ our Lord?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, help us to see beyond our self-righteous judgments of others and to receive your forgiveness with joy and gladness through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, who in your life can you reach out to with a word or action that expresses forgiveness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think or talk about a time when you forgave someone or someone forgave you and how it may have changed your relationship.

Pray: **Dear Lord, help me to open my heart and mind to know when to forgive and when to ask for forgiveness for my words or actions towards another. In Jesus' name, amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org