

KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost



*Congregation responses in **Bold**.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Praise the Lord

Laura Story, Mac Powell, Shawn Lewis

Chorus 1

Praise the Lord oh my soul
I will praise the Lord as long as I live
I will sing praises to my God
Even with my dying breath

Of those beneath heavy loads
The stranger He protects
And the righteous one He loves

Bridge

The Lord will reign forever
Our God is King to all generations
The Lord will reign forever our God (REPEAT)

Verse 1

He is the One, Who made Heaven and earth
The sea and ev'rything in it
He is the One, Who keeps every promise forever
He gives justice to the oppressed
And sets the pris'ner free

Chorus 2

We will praise the Lord oh my soul
We will praise the Lord as long as we live
We will sing praises to our God
Even with our dying breath (REPEAT)

Verse 2

He is the One, Who feeds the hungry
And opens the eyes of the blind
He lifts up the burdens

Ending

Even with our dying breath
Even with our dying breath

GATHERING MUSIC

Indescribable

Jesse Reeves, Laura Story

Verse 1

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
Creation's revealing Your majesty
From the colors of Fall to the fragrance of Spring
Ev'ry creature unique in the song that it sings
All exclaiming

Yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night
None can fathom, You are amazing God

Chorus 1

Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky,
And You know them by name
You are amazing God, All powerful untamable
Awestruck we fall to our knees, s we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God

Chorus 2

Indescribable uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing God
Incomparable unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing God

Verse 2

Who has told ev'ry lightning bolt where it should go
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light

Ending

You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing God (REPEAT)
You see the depths of our hearts
And You love us the same
You are amazing God

WELCOME

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A 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.

C Amen.

LET'S TALK

Children's Time

READING Psalm 103:8-13

L A reading from Psalm 103.

- ⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹ He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ 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.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

VERSE

1. Who could im-ag-ine a mel-o - dy true e-nough to tell of Your mer-
 2. Who could im-ag-ine a sym-pho-ny grand e-nough to tell of Your glo-

4
 - cy? Who could im-ag - ine a har - mo - ny
 - ry? Our high - est praise but a fee - ble breath, a

7
 sweet e - nough to tell of Your love? I see the heav - ens pro-claim - ing You day
 whis - per of Your thun - der - ous worth.

10
 af - ter day, and I know in my heart that there must be a way. To sing a great-

CHORUS

- er song, a great - er song to You on the earth; To sing a great - er song,

19
 a great - er song to You on the earth.

23
 1 2 3
 D.S.
 To sing a great Hal - le - lu - jah, we wan - na lift You high - er; Hal - le - lu - jah,

28
repeat as desired
 we wan - na lift You high - er. High - er, high - er. I see the heav-

- ens pro - claim - ing You day af - ter day, and I know in my heart that there must

36
 be a way.

46
 1,2
 Hal - le - lu - jah, we wan - na lift You high - er; Hal - le - lu - jah, we wan - na lift You high - er.

49
 3
 we wan - na lift You high - er. Hal - le - lu - jah, we wan - na lift You high - er;

Hal - le - lu - jah, we wan - na lift You high - er.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

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

Prayer petitions will conclude: "Hear us, O God."

The congregation's response is: "Your mercy is great."

P 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.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C **Amen.**

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C **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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

The offering plates are in the narthex for your use. You may also place your offering in the plate at the communion rail when you come forward for communion. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.

OFFERING PRAYER

P 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.

C Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Gluten-free is available on request. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C **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.

INVITATION

P Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Receive the Elements as the words are said:

The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.

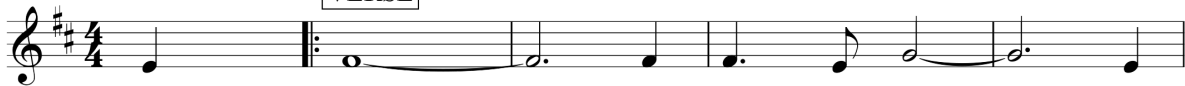
Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.

COMMUNION SONG

Amazing Love

Graham Kendrick

VERSE



1. My Lord, what love is this, that
(2. And) so they watched Him die, de -
(3. And) now this love of Christ shall



pays so dear - ly, that I, the guilt - y one,
spised, re - ject - ed; But oh, the blood He shed
flow like riv - ers; Come wash your guilt a - way,

CHORUS



may go free? A - maz - ing love, O, what
flowed for me!
live a - gain!



sac - ri - fice, the Son of God giv'n for me. My debt He pays,



and my death He dies, that I might live, that

1, 2

TURNAROUND

3



I might live. 2. And might
3. And

ENDING



live. That I might live.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

P The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C Amen.

P The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

Mighty to Save

Next Page

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

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VERSE

1. Ev 'ry - one needs com - pas - sion, love that's nev - er fail -
 2. So take me as You find me, all my fears and fail -

3 ing. Let mer - cy fall on me. Ev - 'ry - one needs for - give -
 ures. Fill my life a - gain. I give my life to fol -

6 ness, the kind - ness of a Sav - iour. The hope of na - tions.
 low, ev - 'ry - thing I be - lieve in. Now I sur - ren - der.

CHORUS

Sav - iour, He can move the moun - tains. My God is might - y to save. He is

14 might - y to save. For - ev - er, Au - thor of sal - va - tion. He rose and

17 con - quered the grave. Je - sus con - quered the grave.

INSTRUMENTAL

(1) con - quered the grave.

BRIDGE

Shine your light, and let the whole world see. We're sing - ing

30 for the glo - ry of the ris - en King. Je - sus. Shine your light, and let the whole world

CHORUS

see. We're sing - ing for the glo - ry of the ris - en King. Sav - iour, He can move the

37 moun - tains. My God is might - y to save. He is might - y to save. For - ev - er, Au - thor of Sal -

41 va - tion. He rose and con - quered the grave. Je - sus con - quered the grave.

CHORUS

con - quered the grave.