

Rally Sunday, September 13, 2026

Lectionary 24, Year A
CRADLE ROLL & BIBLE HONORS



Noisy
Offering
Sunday

Ring of Bell

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 731

Earth and All Stars

- 1 **Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!**
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

- 2 **Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!**
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain
- 3 **Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!**
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain
- 4 **Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!**
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain
- 5 **Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!**
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

PLEASE BE SEATED

CRADLE ROLL DIALOGUE *Carmen Nesseth*

L: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me,
and do not stop them;

C: for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." MATT. 19:14

L: O LORD, your praise reaches up to the heavens;

C: it is sung by children and babies. Ps. 8:2

L: Children's children are a crown to the aged,

C: and parents are the pride of their children.
PROV. 17:6

L: Train up a child in the way they should go,

C: and when they are old they will not turn from it. PROV. 22:6

L: Tell it to your children and let your children tell
it to their children,

C: and their children to the next generation.
JOEL 1:3

L: We praise you Father, LORD of heaven and
earth, because you have hidden these things
from the wise and learned,

C: and revealed them to the little children.
MATT. 11:25

L: Jesus took the children in his arms,

C: laid his hands on them and blessed them.
MARK 10:16

CRADLE ROLL HONOREES

GRADUATING TO SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Madelyn (Maddie) Lothert — Amaya Love Lair

CRADLE ROLL PRAYER

L: Almighty God, heavenly Father,

C: You have blessed us with joy and care of children. As we bring them up, give us calm strength and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BIBLE RECIPIENTS - 7TH GRADE

*Hunter Aronson — Talon Berge — Abigail Lerfald
Olivia Lerfald — David Meyer — Emmett Peterson
Hudson Schwering*

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

C: 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 50:14-21

GOOD NEWS TRANSLATION

Joseph reconciles with his brothers

¹⁴ After Joseph had buried his father, he returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone with him for the funeral.

¹⁵ After the death of their father, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still hates us and plans to pay us back for all the harm we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph: "Before our father died, ¹⁷ he told us to ask you, 'Please forgive the crime your brothers committed when they wronged you.' Now please forgive us the wrong that we, the servants of your father's God, have done." Joseph cried when he received this message.

¹⁸ Then his brothers themselves came and bowed down before him. "Here we are before you as your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid; I can't put myself in the place of God. ²⁰ You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good, in order to preserve the lives of many people who are alive today because of what happened. ²¹ You have nothing to fear. I will take care of you and your children." So he reassured them with kind words that touched their hearts.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

PSALM 103: 8-13 *We read responsively*

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

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

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

C: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for

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

C: 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

THE MESSAGE

Accepting diversity in the community of faith

Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

²⁻⁴ For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

⁵ Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.

⁶⁻⁹ What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for *God's* sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. It's *God* we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

¹⁰⁻¹² So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to

end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:

"As I live and breathe," God says,
"every knee will bow before me;
Every tongue will tell the honest truth
that I and only I am God."

So mind your own business. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

◆ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

Wilda C. Gafney, *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith
²¹ Peter came and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, if a sister or brother sins against me, how often should I forgive? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the realm of heaven may be compared to a human ruler who wished to settle matters with their enslaved debtors. ²⁴ When the settlement began, one who owed ten thousand talents was brought forward. ²⁵ Since that one could not pay, the ruler ordered that enslaved person to be sold, together with spouse and children and every possession, and thus to pay. ²⁶ So falling and kneeling before the ruler, the enslaved debtor said, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of compassion, the lord of that enslaved person released that one and forgave the debt. ²⁸ But that same enslaved person who was owed a hundred denarii by another enslaved person, upon going out, came upon the debtor; and seizing that one by the throat, said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then the indebted slave fell down and pled, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But the other enslaved person was not willing and went and threw the debtor into prison until the debt was paid. ³¹ When those who were also enslaved saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then the lord summoned the one whose debt was forgiven saying, '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 the lord handed that one over to be tortured until the entire debt could be paid. ³⁵ So my heavenly Abba will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your sister or brother from your heart."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST!**

PLEASE BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY BAPTISM--APOSTLES CREED p. 227-231

ASSEMBLY AFFIRMATION

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Amen.

SERMON *Pastor D.J. Chatelaine*

HYMN OF THE DAY

PR. D.J. - GUITAR

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

NEWSBOYS

**I'm forgiven, because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again**

**Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love and I know it's true
And it's my joy to honor You
In all I do to honor You**

**You are my King, You are my King
Jesus, You are my King, You are my King**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF PEACE

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

PLEASE BE SEATED

OFFERING--OFFERTORY--**NOISY** OFFERING

◆ OFFERING SONG

ELW 466

In the Singing

1 In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open, in the blessing, in the breaking, in your presence at this table. Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace; Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

2 In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance, in the heart's cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people, Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace; Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.

OFFERING PRAYER

- L: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
- C: Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.**
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.**
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

DISTRIBUTION & HYMN ELW **482** *I Come with Joy*

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

TABLE BLESSING

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.
- C: Make us living signs of your liberation,
healing, and love, following the way of
Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- 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 ELW **836** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Ring of Bell

DISMISSAL

- P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
- C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



BAPTIZED TODAY
David Abraham Meyer
PARENTS
Aaron & Angela Meyer
SPONSOR
John Meyer
WELCOME DAVID!

PARTICIPANTS

PASTOR—Rev. D.J. Chatelaine
ORGAN/PIANO—Tammy Hanson
WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Carmen Nesseth
GREETER(S)—Sandy Doehling
C/SET UP—Paul & Sharon Rechtzigel
C/SERVERS—Sandy Doehling, Susan & Eric Hoversten
AFTER WORSHIP—**Outdoor Breakfast, Games**
WORSHIP SLIDES—
TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Steve Johnson,
Holly Aldorfer, Jack Aronson, Luke Cordes

For future worship helper needs SEE
Sign-Up Book in the Narthex

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CCLI Song# 2456623 *You Are My King (Amazing Love)*
BILLY J. FOOTE
OL/SKU# 87045 *Earth & All Stars* ELW 731
OL/SKU# 68023 *In the Singing* ELW 466
OL/SKU# 00455 *I Come With Joy* ELW 482

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Jennifer Lurfald, Jim Fountaine, Dax Eggert,
Larry Walker, Tim Emerson, John Maki,
Marilyn Schaper, Trudy Johnson.*

CALENDAR

SUN SEPT 13	Rally Sunday & 1st Sun/Sch
9 am	WORSHIP - Cradle Roll, 7th Grade Bibles, & Noisy Offering
10 am	Outdoor Pancake Brkfst & Games
WED SEPT 15	
5:30 pm	Confirmation
7 pm	COUNCIL
THU SEPT 17	
4-7 pm	Farmer's Market
FRI SEPT 18	
6:30 pm	AA
SUN SEPT 20	
9 am	WORSHIP
10 am	Sunday School
10 am	Coffee

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Thank You 
*Thank you to everyone who
helped piece together our
Puzzle Exchange.*