

MERCY & GRACE

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 17, 2023



**TODAY'S OFFERING OF WORSHIP
THIS SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

We gather together...

PRELUDE

String Band

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The news of the world is stark, filled with wars, poverty, floods and fires, earthquakes and unstable governments.

Yet we are convinced of this truth: there is nothing greater than our God.

We can be a proud, self-reliant people, slow to think a solution exists beyond our grasp and quick to celebrate our successes.

Yet we have gathered not to celebrate ourselves but to give God alone the glory.

**ALL: For God alone guides, protects, restores, and redeems us.
Let us worship our God!**

HYMN #34: *Not unto Us, O Lord

***INVOCATION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

...to hear God's Word...

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 14:19-31 (*Old Testament page 61*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

PSALM

Psalm 114 (*Old Testament page 563*) **Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 14:1-12 (*New Testament page 163*)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Amen.**

***GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 18:21-35 (*New Testament page 20*)

The Gospel of our Lord, God's living Word. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN #415:** *Give, O Lord, unto Thy Servant*

SERMON: *Rev. Todd Johnson*

...and to respond with our lives...

CONFESSION OF SIN

Like a gracious parent, you are nurturing and forgiving. Yet we often take advantage of your generous nature, taking it for granted. We do not let ourselves to be shaped by your grace, becoming more nurturing and forgiving as you are. We call you "Lord" yet think of ourselves as having control over our lives. But you are our Lord, in life and in death, even if we fail to acknowledge it. Forgive us for the double standards of our lives, accepting your grace while withholding it from others. Teach us to live from hearts changed by your mercy and forgiveness.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERINGS OF CHURCH LIFE AND FINANCES

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

...in the places we now go.

***HYMN #577: Come We That Love the Lord**

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION:**

**The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious
Gracious,
Gracious to you.**

**The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you
Give you,
Give you peace.**

POSTLUDE

Join us after the service for coffee and conversation, in the Narthex.

Welcome!



GREETERS: Jim and Annita Presti
READERS: Linda Carlson and Rich Puffert
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Jane Leach
USHER: Corbin Sheffels
COFFEE SERVERS: Donna and Todd Larson
LIVESTREAM: Axel

