



APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

(804) 693-9098 | apostles-elca.org | facebook.com/ApostlesELCA



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith (Matthew 18:21-35)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through
Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info. A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

RECONCILING in CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at j80j84@msn.com (preferred) or pastor.apostles@gmail.com. Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children and 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

NAME TAGS

Please wear your nametag! Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

GATHERING

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.

PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones**.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

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.

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.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #452

"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"



- 1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

APOSTOLIC GREETING

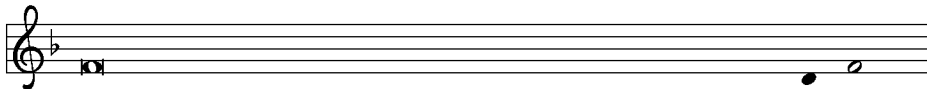
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



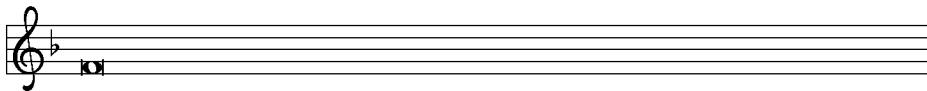
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



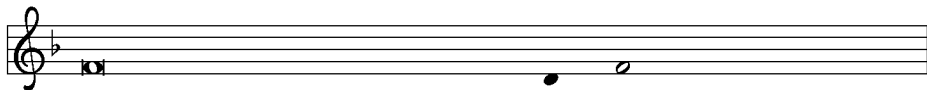
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



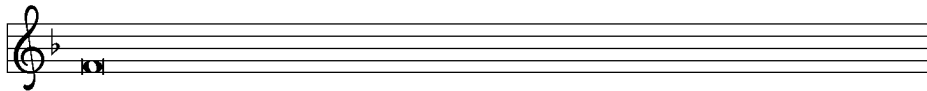
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



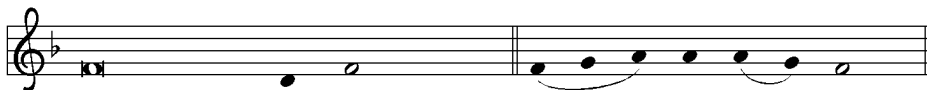
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



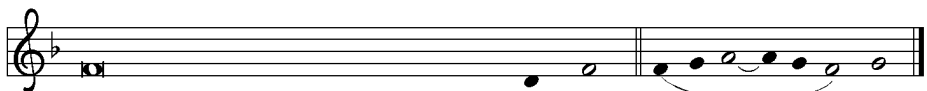
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

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. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

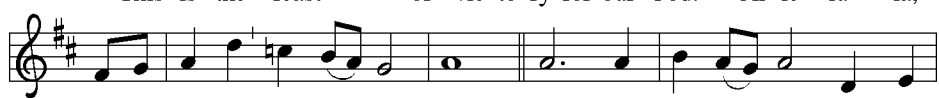


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

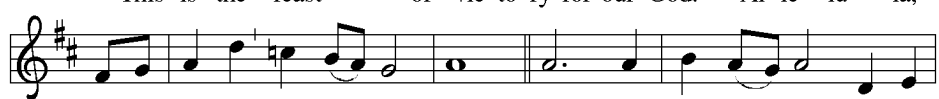


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Sit

FIRST READING

GENESIS 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ 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?" ¹⁶ So 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. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ 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. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Response after the First Reading

The word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 103:[1-7] 8-13

[¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—**

³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R**

⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

] ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R**

⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

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

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."
¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

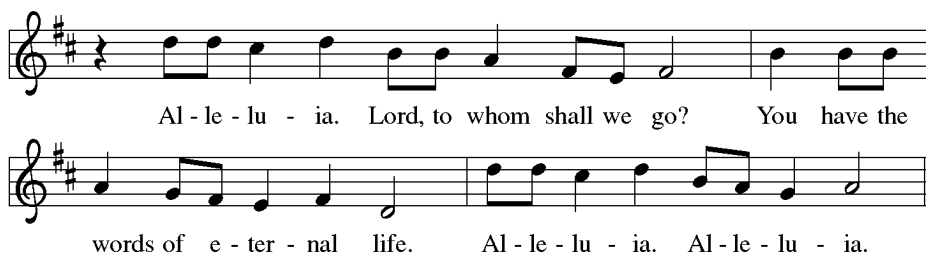
Response after the Second Reading

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The gospel is announced.

All are invited to make a small cross over your forehead, lips, and chest, inviting Jesus the Word into your heart, mind, and speech.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 18th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

²¹ 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.

²³ “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.”

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

PASTOR JAY SERAFIN

Silence is kept after the reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #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.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

APOSTLES CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

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

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

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

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you.** Please know that it is fine if you do not want to shake hands but would rather just share a sign of peace.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Sit

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

To give online:

✚ Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions

✚ From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453

Please rise in body or in spirit.

OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW #186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

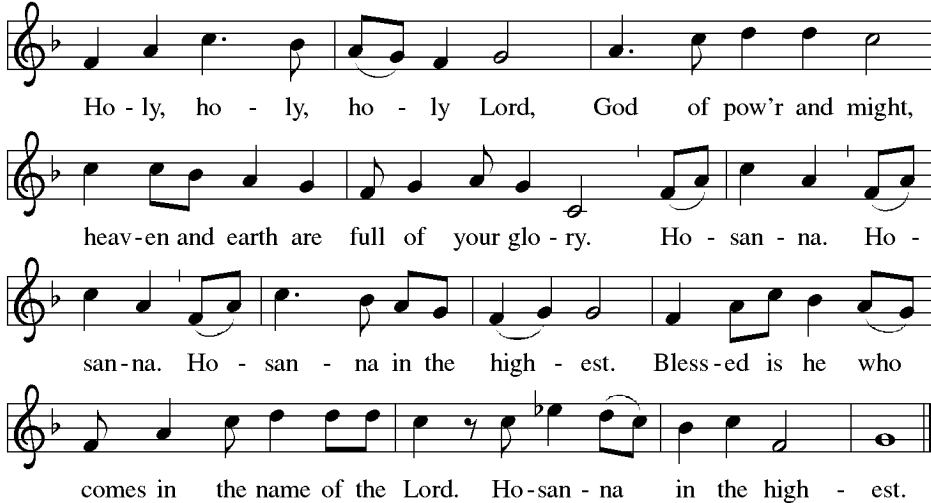
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... 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. 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 in the high - est.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... into the future.

We bless you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... with us now.

We thank you, O God.

The great thanksgiving continues.

... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The great thanksgiving concludes.

... Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit,
in your church, without end.

Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.

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

Sit

COMMUNION

All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.

You will be invited to come forward either to receive the elements or to receive a blessing.

For those receiving the elements, after receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION

ELW #359

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.

BLESSING

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #606

"Our Father, We Have Wandered"



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

Text © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS

	Serving Today	Serving Next Week
Worship Leader/Preacher	Pastor Jay Serafin	Pastor Jay Serafin
Lay Assisting Minister	Irene Albert	Doug Dalager
Lector	Karen Johnston	Judy Wright
Acolyte	Tegan Goetz	David Muse
Accompanist	Janet Gomez	Kathy Merithew
Altar Care	Janet Gomez	Judy Wright
Communion Bread	Janet Gomez	Lowes
Flowers	Ingrid Peterson	Jamie Serafin
Greeter/Usher	Karen Johnston	Cyndi Lowe
Technology	Doug Dalager	Jason Lowe

SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	Serving This Week	Serving Next Week
Cleaning Team	Gomezes	Liljebergs
Tellers	Daniel Gomez/Nate Peterson	Barbara Runk/Tonia Fallin
Fellowship Set Up	Jennie Hawkins	Caring Community
Fellowship Food	Ellen Quirk/Donna Ambrose	Judy Wright
Fellowship Clean Up	Alberts	Jamie Serafin

NEW PERSPECTIVE

Being a disciple requires an expansive perspective on forgiveness. Today our perspective is broadened by the good news that God's forgiveness is not based on our idea of fairness, but rather on abundant, unimaginable grace. God "[has] not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities" (Ps. 103:10). The king forgives our entire debt, no matter how enormous it is (Matt. 18:23-27). We also are challenged to stretch our perspective and forgive each other. With Peter, we learn to stop keeping score (Matt. 18:21-22).

It's not an easy thing to do. Again and again we fall back on limited human understandings of what is "fair." Looking at the story of Joseph and his brothers, it's easy for us to say that his brothers really didn't deserve forgiveness. Even their plea for forgiveness is dishonest and manipulative—have they *really* repented (Gen. 50:15-17)? Joseph takes the wider view and realizes that it isn't his brothers' intentions that matter, but God's. God's forgiveness is much greater than what is fair, what we deserve.

So what does this new, broadened perspective look like in the lives of Christians and congregations? Paul provides a pragmatic glimpse: "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" (Rom. 14:3). If all are truly welcomed by God, we are called to share the good news of that welcome in all we say and do.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

First Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

God's concern for the city of Nineveh

Psalms 145:1-8

*The LORD is slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love.*

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Standing firm in the gospel

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the vineyard workers

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING

The Congregation Council will be having their monthly meeting this **Monday, September 14th at 7:00 PM**. Anyone is welcome to attend!

ADULT CHOIR RESUMES

Adult choir will resume this **Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00 PM** after a summer break. We would LOVE to have you come and sing with us!

RECONCILINGWORKS BIBLE STUDY

ReconcilingWorks will be holding a monthly Bible study online via Zoom on the third Thursday of every month through December—the next study will be **Thursday, September 17th, at 4:00 PM**. Registration is required and information to register can be found at www.reconcilingworks.org/bible-study/. The Zoom link will be emailed two days in advance to those who register. The Bible Study is led by a rostered leader. The text for the Bible Study is for the Sunday ten days after the Bible Study Zoom gathering.

LAY MINISTRY ACADEMY

Applications for the next Lay Ministry Academy Cohort are now open. Applications and all supporting materials, including the \$50 application fee, are due on **Sunday, September 20**. Questions can be sent to Pastor Colleen Hetrick at hetrick@vasynod.org.

WORLD HUNGER SUNDAY

Bring your World Hunger offering next **Sunday, September 20th**. UNTIL ALL ARE FED!!!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: UNDERSTANDING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Our current Bible study is “Understanding the New Testament” and will **continue on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6 PM** – please join us!!

NEW MEMBERS

We will be receiving new members during worship on **Sunday, October 4th** – if you are interested in becoming a member, please talk with Pastor Jay!

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Rich Bitting, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Heidi Henderson,
Ellen Kendzierski, Doug Leip, David Leunig, Cyndi Lowe, Ellen Quirk,
Michael Schlemmer, Ray Scholz, Keith & Juanita Sturdy, George & Jewel Thomas,
Lena Woodlief, and Judy Wright**

OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Natalie Abu Dayyeh, Patricia Armentor (mother of Arlene, Executive Director of Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic), **Paul Bauer, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Bob & Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Dennis & Dorothy Brown, Sally Burkholder, Juan Carlos, Amy Carter, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Linda Edwards, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Suzanne & Frank Gibson, Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy & Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Carl Greene, Karen Guire, Melvin Hawkins** (Chris Hawkins' father), **Chaneice & Daniel Hayden, Rosie Heins, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Ray Hughes, Scott Jeffery, Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **Terri Larsen, Marion Lucier, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, Sylvia Midgette** (Krystle McMahan's grandmother), **Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Gary Mowery, Jamie Mullaney, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Chastity Perkins** (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson & his brother, the Prusa Family, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Pastor Wendy Roundy, Carol Schlemmer, Daniel Schmidt, Michael Scholz** (Ray Scholz's nephew), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackleford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Skye Sulton, Marier Upshrie, Keegan Walls, Williams Walters, Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (Tina Britt's niece), **Elizabeth & Steven White, Vicki Williams, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Logan & Shannon Wymer, Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA

Amayra, Hugolino, Manuela, and Pablo

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

TODAY	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service Coffee Fellowship
MONDAY	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office Al-Anon/AA Congregation Council
TUESDAY	6:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
WEDNESDAY	4:00 PM – 8:00 PM 7:00 PM	Pastor Jay in the Office Choir Practice
THURSDAY		
FRIDAY		Girl Scouts
SATURDAY	5:30 PM	Young and Sober
SUNDAY	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Worship Service & World Hunger Sunday Coffee Fellowship

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

Heinz and Irene Albert– Mon, Sep 14 | **Donald and Lynn Jaeger** – Wed, Sep 16



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