

Forgive as You are Forgiven

September 20,
2026



17th Sunday
after Pentecost

Welcome, guests! We're delighted you have joined us. If you have questions or need more information about our church, any member of Grace will be happy to help. This folder contains all the details about our services, with congregational responses indicated by indentation and bold text. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church entrance; only the pastor and elders will use it. Restrooms are to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: The Church forgives as God forgives. Whenever we try to imitate God, we quickly realize our inadequacy. Yet today God tells us to model our forgiveness on his: boundless, free, and loving, grounded in Christ's sacrifice. How could our sinful hearts ever forgive like that? The Prayer of the Day asks that the mercy and grace of God precede us and follow us, that we might love God with undivided hearts—always ready to forgive as God does: sins are forgiven, forgotten, forever.

MORNING PRAYER: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP – CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN:

#234

1 PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

****Please Stand for the Last Verse****



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for
reign - ing And, as on wings of an
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when
fend you; Sure - ly his good - ness and
dore him! All that has life and breath,



he is your health and sal - va - tion!
ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
heed - less - ly fall - ing, has stayed you.
mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear Now to his tem - ple draw
Have you not seen All that is need - ful has
What need or grief Ev - er has failed of re -
Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can
Let the A - men Sound from his peo - ple a -



near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
lief? Wings of his mer - cy did shade you.
do As with his love he be - friends you.
gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. composite.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN (14 14 478) *Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs*, Stralsund, 1665, alt.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

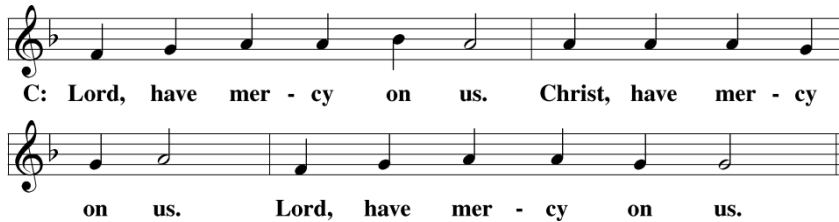
CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

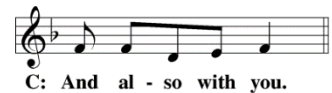
GLORY BE TO GOD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS





PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

GENESIS 50:15 – 21

How hard it is to forgive like God! We may forgive someone who hurts us, but we never forget. We harbor that hurt deep inside of us for years—never understanding that we are locking ourselves in the prison of the past.

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him." They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, 'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you."' Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants." Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.



Refrain

Praise the LORD, O my soul;*
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
He forgives all your sins*
and heals all your diseases;
he redeems your life from the grave*
and crowns you with love and compassion.

Refrain

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,*
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He does not treat us as our sins deserve*
or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,*
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Refrain

As a father has compassion on his children,*
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
for he knows how we are formed,*
he remembers that we are dust.
Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;*
the wind blows over it and it is gone.
But the LORD'S love is with those who fear him*
from everlasting to everlasting.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 14:5 – 9

Christ set us free from the burdens of the Law; in the Gospel we have the freedom of sons. With freedom, though, comes responsibility. Our Christian freedom must be normed by love for our neighbor.

One person values one day above another. Another person values every day the same. Let each person be fully convinced in his own mind. The person who honors a certain day does this for the Lord, and the person who eats does this for the Lord, because he gives thanks to God. And the person who does not eat does this for the Lord and gives thanks to God.

In fact, not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself. Indeed, if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this reason he died, rose, and lived, to be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how untraceable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his adviser?” “Or who has first given to God that he will be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.-

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia. (Romans 15:4)

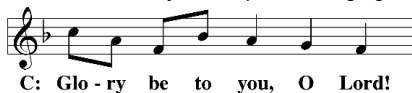


GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21 – 35

Forgiveness must be learned, and Peter thought he had figured it out. From the elders of the Jews, Peter had heard: “If a man transgresses one time, forgive him. If a man transgresses two times, forgive him. If a man transgresses three times, forgive him. If a man transgresses four times, do not forgive him.” Three times, the elders said, was the limit of forgiveness for a good Jew.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was

brought to him. Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

“Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ “So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

****Please Be Seated****

APOSTLES' CREED

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

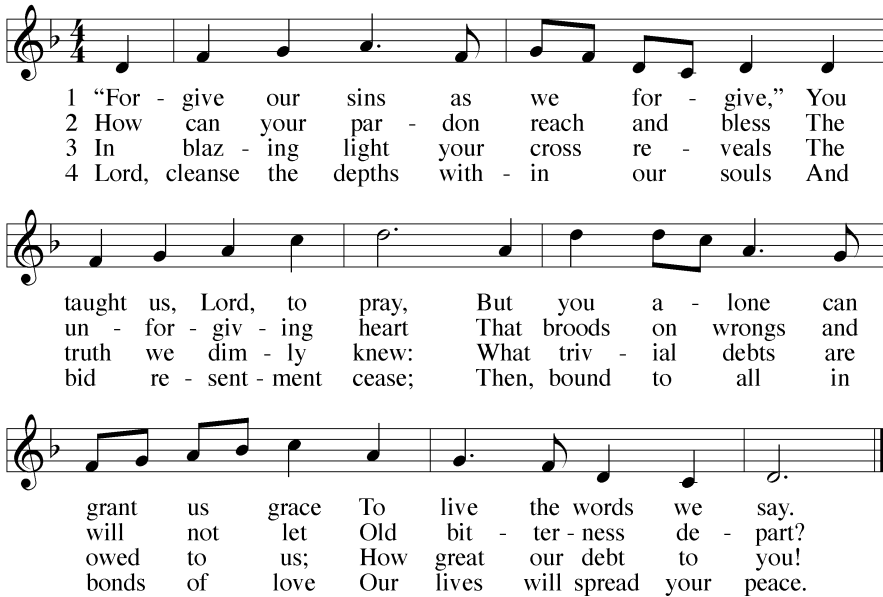
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#493

FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," You
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless The
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And

taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in

grant us grace To live the words we say.
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us; How great our debt to you!
 bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: DETROIT (CM) *A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony*, Harrisonburg, 1820.

SERMON TEXT:

MATTHEW 18:21 – 35

SERMON THEME:

WE HAVE FREEDOM IN FORGIVENESS

CREATE IN ME



C: 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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love to our family members and neighbors.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly toward those who live in Redmond and its surrounding cities. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Special Prayers and Intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

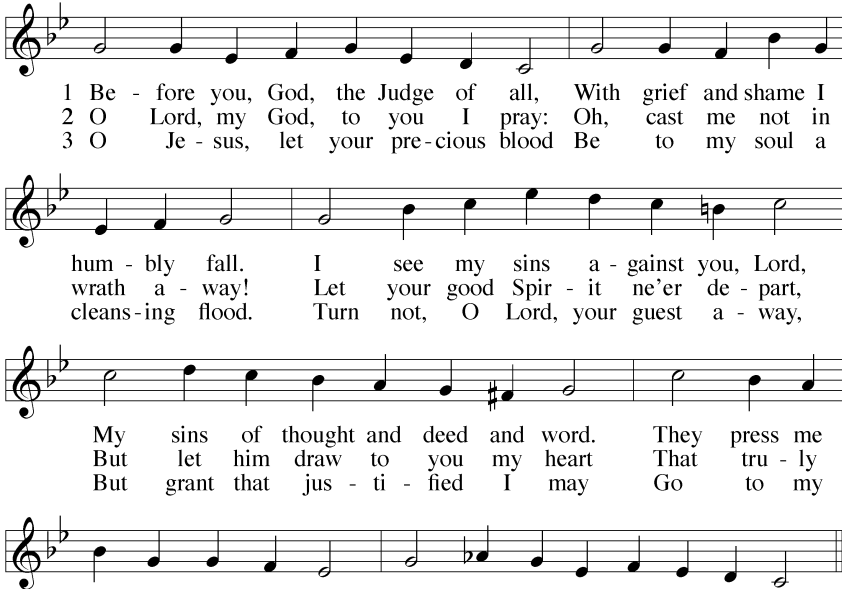
THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

RESPONSORY HYMN

#306

BEFORE YOU, GOD, THE JUDGE OF ALL



1 Be - fore you, God, the Judge of all, With grief and shame I
2 O Lord, my God, to you I pray: Oh, cast me not in
3 O Je - sus, let your pre - cious blood Be to my soul a

hum - bly fall. I see my sins a - gainst you, Lord,
wrath a - way! Let your good Spir - it ne'er de - part,
cleans - ing flood. Turn not, O Lord, your guest a - way,

My sins of thought and deed and word. They press me
But let him draw to you my heart That tru - ly
But grant that jus - ti - fied I may Go to my

sore; to you I flee: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
pen - i - tent I be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
house at peace to be: O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.
Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

****Please Stand****

THE CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts, that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN:

#393

IF YOUR BELOVED SON, O GOD

1 If your be - lov - ed Son, O God, Had
2 But now I find sweet peace and rest; De -
3 I trust in him with all my heart; Now
4 All right - eous - ness by works is vain; The
5 My guilt, O Fa - ther, you have laid On

not to earth de - scend - ed And in our
spair no more reigns o'er me. No more am
all my sor - row ceas - es. His words a -
law brings con - dem - na - tion. True right - eous -
Christ, your Son, my Sav - ior. Lord Je - sus,

Be - cause of my trans - gres - sion.
With you, my God, for - ev - er.
And pure I stand be - fore him.
In him my hope is an - chored.
In faith and hope pre - serve me.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, st. 1-4, abr.; *Neu-vermehrtes vollständiges Gesangbuch*, Braunschweig, 1661, st. 5; tr. composite.
Tune: NUN FREUT EUCH, LIEBEN CHRISTEN (87 87 887) *Etlich Cristlich liden*, Wittenberg, 1524.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the sole source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins forgiven for all people and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, when all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School teachers: We plan to begin our children's Sunday School on October 4. If you would like to teach or assist in any way, we will meet after the service on September 27.

Another Property: Our lease with the SDA church expired this month; the council has identified another property for your consideration. Our church president would like to meet with the congregation after our service to discuss how they would like to proceed. Flyers for this location are in the entryway.

Bible Information Class: We began a Bible Information Class this past Thursday. We still have room for more; we meet at 6 p.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please consider attending our Sunday morning adult Bible Study as we study Paul's letter to the church at Philippi.

Midweek Bible Study: Our Tuesday evening Bible Study is at 6 p.m. We will meet at Gary and Lani Carroll's home (3211 SW Umatilla Rd.) to study Isaiah, or you can join us on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Women's Mission Rally: Mark your calendar for the West Coast Women's Mission Rally, to be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Klamath Falls, Oregon, September 25–26.

WELS Pastor / Teacher's Conference: We have been invited to attend the WELS NW District Pastor and Teacher's Conference, October 14- 15 in Bend. Please contact Pastor Emmons or Mavis Vandelicht for conference details.

General Pastor's Conference (GPC): Pastor Emmons will be attending the GPC in Bloomington, MN. September 29 to October 2. While he is out of town, you can contact Elder Gene Baldwin at 541-610-9978 for emergencies.

Lutheran Military Support Group Retreat: Pastor Emmons will be in Rochester, MN, October 6 to 13 for the retreat. He will share Ephesians 6, encouraging people to be ready in God's word when struggling with combat-related issues and injuries.

Pastor: Roger Emmons
Email: Roger.emmons@graceredmond.com
Website: <https://graceredmond.com>
Church Phone: 541-844-7100
Cell Phone: 541-699-7643

Address: 945 SW Glacier Ave
Redmond, OR 97756
Mailing Address: P.O Box 2396
Redmond, OR 97756