

September 16th & 17th, 2023

Lord, how often should I forgive?

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

A: Amen.

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,

A: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

A: For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

A: Amen.

Greeting

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

A: And also with you.

Gathering Song

"Come, Ye Disconsolate" (ELW 607)

Come, Ye Disconsolate



1 Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish;
2 Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,
3 Here see the Bread of life; see wa - ters flow - ing



come to the mer - cy - seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.
hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure;
forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove.



Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
here speaks the Com - fort - er, ten - der - ly say - ing,
Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing



earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.
"Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."
earth has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

September 16th & 17th, 2023
Lord, how often should I forgive?

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

A: Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

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?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, '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. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 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. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

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

A: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

L: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

A: who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

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

A: O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

L: You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]

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

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

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

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

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

L: 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

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 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. Who are you to pass judgment on servants 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. 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. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 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. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God. The word of the Lord,

A: Thanks be to God.

September 16th & 17th, 2023
Lord, how often should I forgive?

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia” (Setting 10, ELW pg. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior:
open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us;
speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the
good news that you bring.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew. **A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” 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. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 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 of the Lord, **A: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Hymn of the Day

“Where Charity and Love Prevail” (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.

September 16th & 17th, 2023

Lord, how often should I forgive?

Apostles' Creed

A: 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 Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

A: 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

L: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

L: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world (like Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, whom we commemorate today). Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

L: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

A: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

September 16th & 17th, 2023
Lord, how often should I forgive?

Offertory Song

“O Day of Peace” (ELW 711)

- 1 O day of peace that dimly shines
 through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
 guide us to justice, truth, and love,
 delivered from our selfish schemes.
 May swords of hate fall from our hands,
 our hearts from envy find release,
 till by God's grace our warring world
 shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.
- 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
 nor shall the fierce devour the small;
 as beasts and cattle calmly graze,
 a little child shall lead them all.
 Then enemies shall learn to love,
 all creatures find their true accord;
 the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
 for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Offertory Prayer

P: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

A: Amen.

The Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Setting 10, ELW pg. 207)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

September 16th & 17th, 2023
Lord, how often should I forgive?

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

P: 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.

A: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

A: 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

P: Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

A: Amen.

"O Lamb of God" (Setting 10, ELW pg. 208)

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Special Music Selection

"Goodness of God" by Rhett Walker

Prayer After Communion

P: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In

Jesus' name we pray. **A: Amen.**

Blessing

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

September 16th & 17th, 2023
Lord, how often should I forgive?

Sending

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” (ELW 543)

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

A: Thanks be to God.