


# The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday – September 17, 2023 – 9:30 a.m. Worship

*(In-Person & Live -Streamed)*

His  
Grace  
is enough



Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

1338 Clay Street – Morris, IL – 60450

Website: [www.ficlc.org](http://www.ficlc.org) E-mail: [office@ficlc.org](mailto:office@ficlc.org) Office: (815)941-1255

# † Call to Worship †

## Greeting

### Opening Hymn #712 “Seek Ye First”

- 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
And His righteousness.  
And all these things shall be added unto you!  
Allelu, alleluia!
- 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,  
Allelu, alleluia!
- 3 Man does not live by bread alone,  
But by ev’ry word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord,  
Allelu, alleluia!

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## Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

*Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3–4; Luke 18:13 LSB 203*

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 203*

- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

## Prayer for Forgiveness

- P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

## † Service of the Word †

### Responsive Reading: Psalm 103:1-12

**P**<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul,

**C** and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

**P**<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul,

**C** and forget not all his benefits,

**P**<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity,

**C** who heals all your diseases,

**P**<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit,

**C** who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

**P**<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good

**C** so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**P**<sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness

**C** and justice for all who are oppressed.

**P**<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,

**C** his acts to the people of Israel.

**P**<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious,

**C** slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**P**<sup>9</sup> He will not always chide,

**C** nor will he keep his anger forever.

**P**<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,

**C** nor repay us according to our iniquities.

**P**<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

**C** so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**P**<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,

**C** so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

**ALL** 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.

### Kyrie

*Mark 10:47 LSB 204*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle: Romans 14:1-12

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

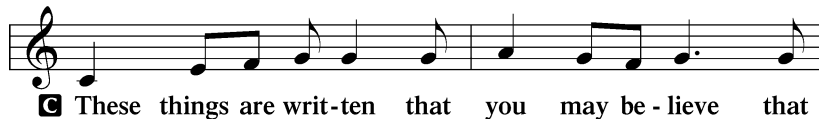
<sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse



## Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “**I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.**”

<sup>23</sup>“**Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.** <sup>24</sup>**When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.** <sup>25</sup>**And since he**

could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

### Sermon Hymn: "Grace Alone"

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Ev'ry promise we can make<br/>Ev'ry prayer and step of faith<br/>Ev'ry diff'rence we will make<br/>Is only by His grace<br/>Ev'ry mountain we will climb<br/>Ev'ry ray of hope we shine<br/>Ev'ry blessing left behind<br/>Is only by His grace<br/><i>(Chorus)</i></p> | <p>2 Ev'ry soul we long to reach<br/>Ev'ry heart we hope to teach<br/>Ev'rywhere we share His peace<br/>Is only by His grace<br/>Ev'ry loving word we say<br/>Ev'ry tear we wipe away<br/>Ev'ry sorrow turned to praise<br/>Is only by His grace<br/><i>(Chorus)</i></p> |
|--|--|

Chorus    Grace alone which God supplies  
              Strength unknown He will provide  
              Christ in us our Cornerstone  
              We will go forth in grace alone

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### Sermon "Overcoming by His Grace"

*Genesis 50:15-21*

*Stand*

#### Nicene Creed

- C** I believe in one God,  
          the Father Almighty,  
          maker of heaven and earth  
          and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Please remain standing*

**Offerings are brought to the LORD's altar**

*Sit*

**Prayer of the Church**

Responses:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** Hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

- P** Hear us Father for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## $\dagger$ Service of the Sacrament $\dagger$

*Stand*

**Preface**

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136] LSB 208*

- 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 Him thanks and praise.

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

## Lord's Prayer

- P** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>C</b> Our Father who art in heaven,<br>hallowed be Thy name,<br>Thy kingdom come,<br>Thy will be done on earth<br>as it is in heaven;<br>give us this day our daily bread;<br>and forgive us our trespasses | as we forgive those<br>who trespass against us;<br>and lead us not into temptation,<br>but deliver us from evil.<br>For Thine is the kingdom<br>and the power and the glory<br>forever and ever. Amen. |
|--|--|

## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29 LSB 210*

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

## Distribution of our LORD's Supper

*Stand*

## Nunc Dimittis

*Luke 2:29-32 LSB 211*

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1 LSB 212*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



## Closing Hymn #707 “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!  
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.  
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.  
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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