CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Patrick Cox

Worship for Sunday, September 13, 2026
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have "mercy on your fellow servant" and "forgive your brother from your heart" (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord's forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we "are the Lord's" (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will "stand before the judgment seat of God," we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also "will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand" (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends "to bring it about that many people should be kept alive" (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: "I will provide for you and your little ones" (Gen. 50:21).

+ Please silence your cell phone.
+ Please fill out the red 'Record of Fellowship' book in your pew.

✢ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING 2 ✢

PRELUDE: **"Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal"** *(Michael Burkhardt)*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal" LSB 533**

✢ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✢

INVOCATION and EXHORTATION LSB 167

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

✢ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✢

INTROIT *(see insert)*
KYRIE LSB 168
THIS IS THE FEAST LSB 171
SALUTATION LSB 172
COLLECT OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING: **Genesis 50:15–21**
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: **Romans 14:1–12**
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA and VERSE LSB 173

HOLY GOSPEL: **Matthew 18:21–35**
Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Holy Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Where Charity and Love Prevail"** **LSB 845**

SERMON: **"Unpayable"** *from Matthew 18:32-35*

APOSTLES' CREED LSB 175

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
Pastor: …let us pray to the Lord,
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

OFFERING
VOLUNTARY: **"Where Charity and Love Prevail"** *(Mark Sedio)*
OFFERTORY LSB 176

✢ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✢

PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE LSB 177
SANCTUS and PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING LSB 178
LORD'S PRAYER LSB 179
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD
PAX DOMINI and AGNUS DEI LSB 180

DISTRIBUTION LSB 181
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS
"Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters" **LSB 598**
"To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All" **LSB 613**

THANK THE LORD LSB 181
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT LSB 183
BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: **"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"** **LSB 793**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: **"To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All"** *(Johann Krieger)*

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HOLY COMMUNION

In the Sacrament of Holy Communion our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us with His true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins. He invites to His table baptized Christians who trust His words, repent of all their sin, and forgive one another as He forgives us.

In 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, St. Paul teaches us that Holy Communion is also a public profession that unity of doctrine exists amongst those who commune at the same altar. Therefore, we ask any who are not yet instructed in the doctrine of our church or who hold membership/commune at a non-LCMS church body to abstain from receiving the Sacrament here today. If it is your desire to receive communion with us at this altar, please speak with Pastor Cox. It would be his joy to instruct you toward confirmation. *For further study see Matthew 5:23ff, 10:32ff, 18:15-35, 26:26-29; Acts 2:38, 42; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:17-34*.

All who are not receiving the Sacrament today are welcome to come to the communion rail to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest when you come to the rail.

- ✠ **The individual cups are offered first, followed by the chalice.**
- ✠ **The cups in the center of the trays include one drop of wine.**
- ✠ **Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten-free wafer.**

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PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP SERVICE

READERS: (Sat) Pastor Cox| (Sun) John Wilson
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Holloway, Emily Tripp
ELDERS: Scott Brewster, Jon Sonntag, Jim Reisenbuechler
USHERS: (Sat) Scott Brewster
(Sun) Bob Timm, Ray Veldman, Byron Brakenhoff, Tony Pessini
ORGANIST: Dr. Sarah Harr DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS: Judy Zehnder
PRAISE TEAM: Nyssa Hunt and Sylvia Hildebrandt
A/V TEAM: Scott Brewster, Nyssa Hunt, Tim Riethmeier,
Mike & Monica Witherby, Bonnie Wright-Woodward