

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God you declare you almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ.**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>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?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

### **PSALM: Psalm 103:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**<sup>6</sup>The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup>He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

**<sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

### **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

<sup>14</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <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, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

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| <b>Sunday: September 17th</b><br>15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>Rally Sunday<br>9:15-Adult SS<br>9:30-Youth SS open w/<br>games, crafts<br>9:30- Coffee Fellowship<br>10:15 Bubbles outside<br>10:30-Worship w/Communion<br>SS Sing, Installation of teacher<br>11:30-Potluck w/grilled burgers<br>hotdogs & brats, Root Beer Floats<br>3:00-4H-Club Meeting | <b>Sunday: September 24<sup>th</sup></b><br>16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>9:15-Adult SS<br>9:30-Youth SS<br>9:30- Coffee Fellowship<br>10:30-Worship<br>4:00-Laurens Care Center Services<br>5:00-Youth Board Mtg @ UMC |
| <b>Monday-Thursday: September</b><br>Pastor gone to STS General Chapter Meeting  |  |
| <b>Tuesday: September 13<sup>th</sup></b><br>8:30-Prayer Group<br>9:30-Morning Coffee @ BLC  |  |
| <b>Thursday: September 21<sup>st</sup></b><br>2:00 Circle Group  |  |

**Prayer Concerns:** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, Iowa storm victims, those battling COVID-19, Bob Winkelmann, Harry Summers, Linda Booth, Everette Buck, Monica Isom, Tiffany Klappenbach, Don & Marjean Ehlers, Lisa Anderson, Rodolfo Rezarin, Betty Thorsvig, Ely Kleszczelski, Colleen Phillips, Neil Bailey, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Christine Gordon, Dorothy Sandvig, Helen Dodge, Pastor James Puotyal, Carol Schmidt, Gloria Bell, Cenon Zarzoso, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

Lector: Pat Boughey  
Ushers: September 17<sup>th</sup> -Julian Johnsen & Family  
September 24<sup>th</sup> -John & Marci Runneberg  
Acolytes: Bethany Youth

### Weekly Budget Needs: \$2600.00

Faith Promise \$1432.00                      Worship 33

**Birthdays:** 9-17-Alex Runneberg; 18-Ethan Baumeister, 19-Lenora Meyer, 23-Marian Roberts

**Anniversaries:** 9-18-Allen & Theresa Sandvig

\*Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.

**Altar Flowers:**

*An asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand (for those who are able)*

### ORDER OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL  
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION

\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS                      P.56  
\*HYMN *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*                      **LBW 543**  
\*GREETING                      P.57  
\*KYRIE                      P.57  
\*HYMN OF PRAISE                      P.60  
\*PRAYER OF THE DAY                      *(bulletin-in unison)*

### MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD

**FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**  
**PSALM: Psalm 103:1-12**                      *(bulletin – responsively)*

**SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**  
\*ALLELUIA VERSE                      P.62  
\***THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**  
\*GOSPEL RESPONSES                      P.63  
CHILDREN'S SERMON-

SERMON                      **Pastor David Klappenbach**  
HYMN *I Lay My Sins on Jesus*                      **LBW 305**  
NICENE CREED                      P.64

INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS

\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH  
**Leader:** "...Lord, in your mercy."  
**Response:** "hear our prayer."

\*THE PEACE

### OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERING / \*OFFERTORY                      P.66  
\*OFFERTORY HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*                      **LBW 212**  
\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING                      P.67  
\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION                      P.69  
\*THE LORD'S PRAYER                      P.71  
\*LAMB OF GOD                      P.72  
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION  
\*BLESSING                      P.72  
\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE                      P.72

\***BENEDICTION**                      P.76  
\*HYMN *Jesus Loves Me*                      **CH 185**  
\*DISMISSAL

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September 17, 2023  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT  
TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S NAME**

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you. Please come again!

*Welcome to our Communion Sunday Service.*

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the Communion/Visitor card in front of you. Please come again!*