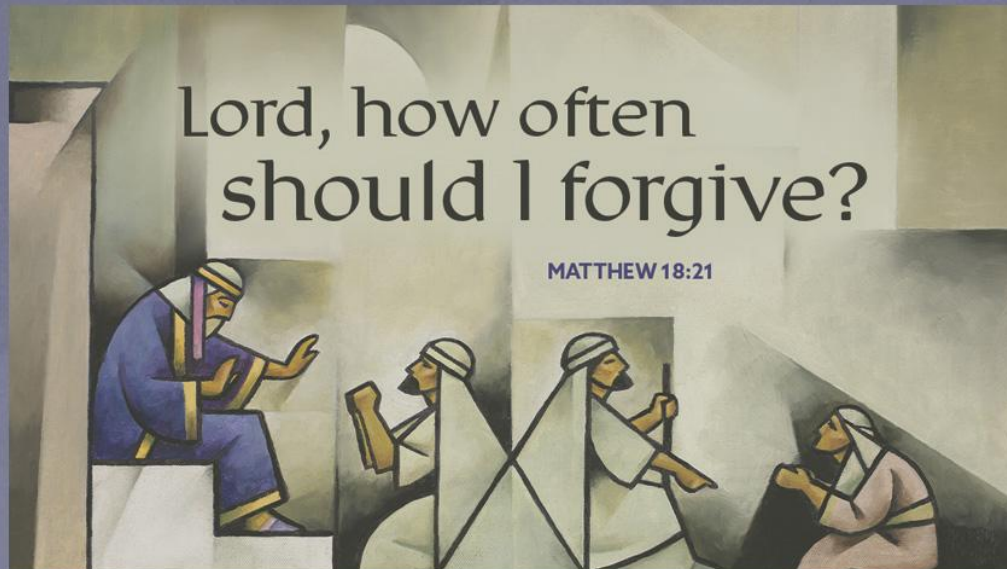


Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 13, 2026

WELCOME!

If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, we joyfully invite you to join with us; please speak to me, Pastor Jami Possinger.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His Supper.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.

Faith Lutheran Church

550 Rt. 940 | PO Box 228

Blakeslee, PA 18610

Office 570-646-0309

Email: faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Website: faithlutheranblakeslee.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-Blakeslee-PA-1721550018126312>

Minister:Rev. Dennis Moore

Lector:Ben Mroz, III

Greeters/Ushers:Janice Neagle

Communion Asst./Clean up:Peggy Rapp/Don and Lois Childers

Music:Molly Finkbiner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us today after worship service for coffee hour.

Flowers & Bulletins: donated by Phil and Ruth Newlander in celebration of Phil's birthday and Shirley Shiner's birthday. "Happy Birthday!"

Altar Service Signup: Volunteers are needed to set-up, bake bread, and clean up after communion. Please email Jan Frantz at Boris_fan@yahoo.com to help.

Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations: Sign-up sheets for 2027 are on the table in the foyer entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for \$10 and \$10 towards silk flowers, or you may bring your own fresh flowers. **Please complete the requisition form with your dedication note.**

Faith Fellowship Team: Our mission is encouraging interaction, building relationships, and creating a sense of belonging within the congregation and with the local community. If you're interested in becoming part of the Faith Fellowship Team, please contact Sara Cornell at 570-472-5560 or at saracornell10@gmail.com.

MEETINGS/EVENTS

AA Meetings: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Sept. 16, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Please call 800-733-2767 to pre-register.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, September 20, 2026, after worship service.

Applefest: Saturday, September 26, 2026. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilt Raffle tickets, \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

- Wrap and Bow baskets: Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m.
- Set Up tables: Friday, Sept. 25 at 2 p.m.

Bible Study: Sessions on Sundays, 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Studying Joshua. Please call Tom Hutton if you are interested in attending. 570-972-6331.

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to Noon with Pastor Jami.

Choir Rehearsals: Sundays, 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. New members welcome!

Faith Library: Please see one of the "Little Librarians" or Sara Cornell with any donations or questions.

Faithful Community Quilters: Second Monday of the month, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free Community Lunch: First Tuesday of each month. (Oct. 6) 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Five Loaf House, 133 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines.

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour: Fellowship will be held after worship on the second Sunday of each month. Volunteers to host are needed – please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church.

Pastor Jami Possinger has weekly office hours. Confidential email: pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org or private cell phone: 610-216-9951

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

PRELUDES: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Please rise as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

527 All Creatures of Our God and King

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines, including the 'Al-le-lu-ia' refrain. The third system contains the next four lines. The fourth system contains the final lines, including the 'Refrain' section. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal parts.

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice with
 2 O rush-ing wind and breez-es soft, O clouds that ride the
 3 O flow-ing wa-ters, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for your
 4 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day Un-folds rich bless-ings

us and sing: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
 winds a-loft: Oh, . . . praise him! Al-le-lu-ia!
 Lord to hear. Oh, . . . praise him! Al-le-lu-ia!
 on our way, Oh, . . . praise him! Al-le-lu-ia!

O burn-ing sun with gold-en beam And sil-ver moon
 O ris-ing morn, in praise re-joice, O lights of eve-
 O fire so mas-ter-ful and bright, Pro-vid-ing us
 The fruits and flow'rs that ver-dant grow, Let them his praise

Refrain
 with soft-er gleam:
 ning, find a voice. Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
 with warmth and light,
 a-bun-dant show.



5 O ev'ryone of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part,
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 All you who pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and lay on him your care. *Refrain*

GREETING

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

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

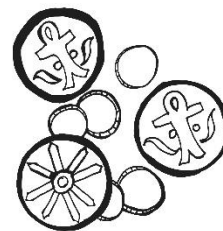
PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Ezekiel Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.



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

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ 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

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ 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. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew 18:21-35**

Glory to you, O Lord.



When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’

²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ 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.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ 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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

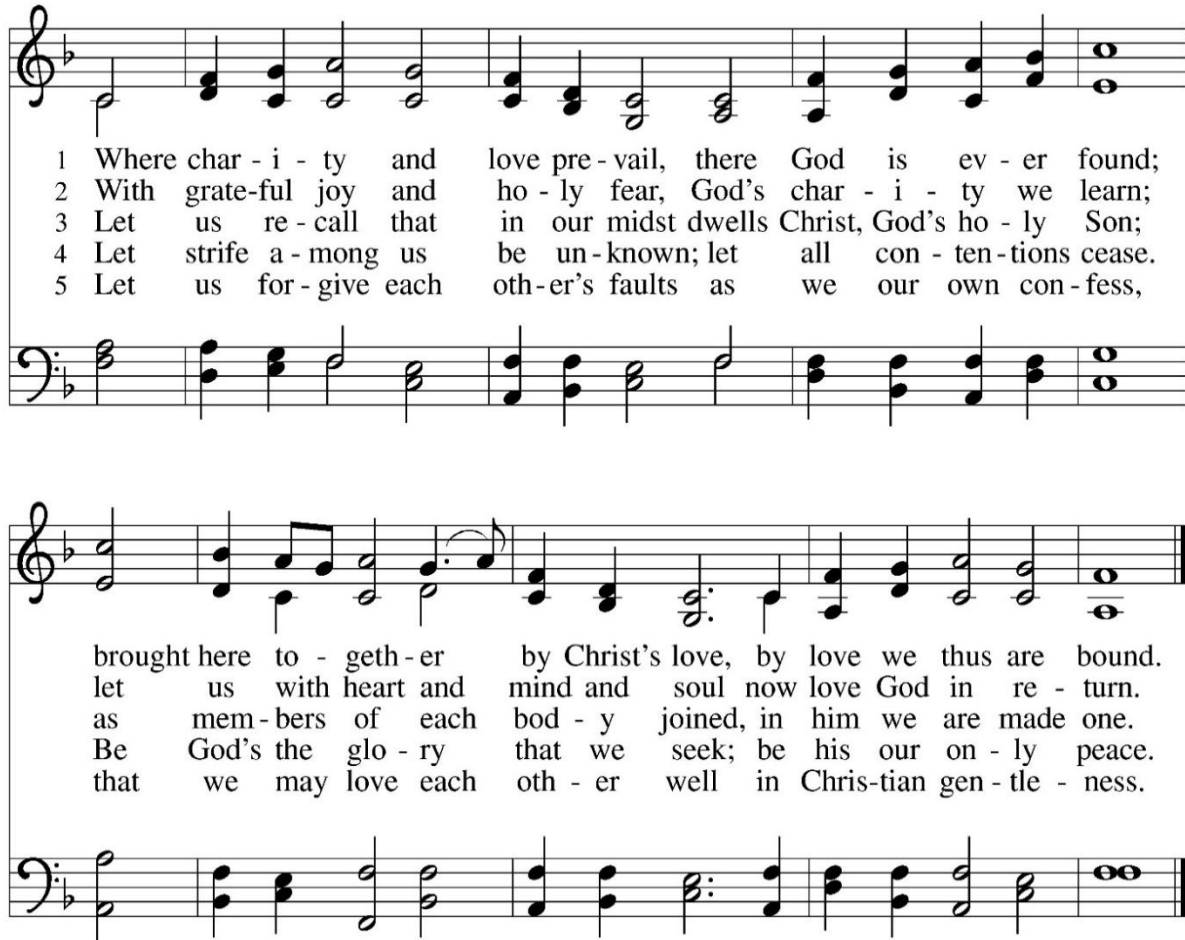
Please be seated.

**CHILDREN'S TIME
SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY

LBW 126

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.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.*
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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PRAYER LIST

Jim H.; Megan; Larissa; Denis H.; William; Richard Z.; Danielle S.; David S.; Michael K.; Gail and Bob C.; Shirley S.; Justin E.; Ed. T.; Dale H.; Tom M.; Wilbur B.; St. Paul, Hawley.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING MUSIC: **"St. Agnes,"** Charles Callahan,
 played by Molly Finkbiner.



OFFERTORY SONG

692

We Are an Offering [U]

Chords: F G C Dm⁷ C² C

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our

Chords: F C 3 Dm⁷ F G C Dm⁷

lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our

Chords: C² C F C 3 Dm⁷ F G⁷

hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.

Chords: Em⁷ A Dm⁷ Esus E Am

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we

give to you, we give to you. We lift our

voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:

we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

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.

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come, come a - gain.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

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.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

LAMB OF GOD

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

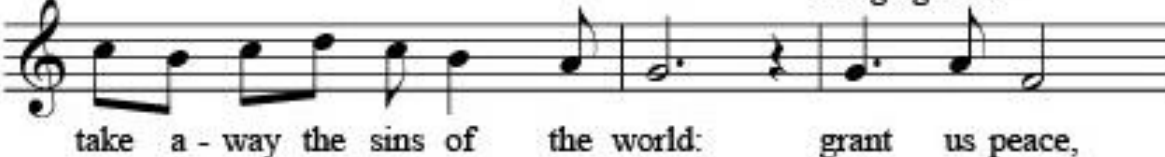
Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Praise to You, O God of Mercy

1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -

ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

3rd time to Coda 1 2
thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for - ev - er!
thanks be to you for -

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -

mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us. *to stanza 3*

Coda
ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.** The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

WOV 721

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.
4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.

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.
I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.

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 his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.

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."
Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

September 13th, 2026 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude:

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Gathering Song:

All Creatures of Our God and King, Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1208, Tune: Geistliche Kirchengeslinge, Koln, 1623. © Public Domain.

Hymn of the Day:

Where Charity and Love Prevail, Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, b. 1916, alt. Tune: attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842. © Public Domain.

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Postlude:

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Service Music:

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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Janet Kath, Church Secretary.....	Faihofice@FaithLutheranBlakeslee.org

Faith Lutheran Church



Saturday, September 26, 2026
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



- Gift Baskets
- Seasonal Crafts
- Handmade Gifts
- Quilt Raffle
- Homemade Jams/Baked Goods



MISSION PROJECT *Blessing Bags*



AUGUST 23 through OCTOBER 11

Our homeless population is growing daily due to housing shortage, high rents/purchase prices and illness/debt. The FAITHFUL QUILTERS group is supporting the Blessing Bags project and have made over 100 cloth bags for reuse. Our job is to fill them!

Let's show some love the women, children and men who live in cars, travel to parks to sleep or bunk in periodically with others. Let's show some love by filling the bags – we already have hats and scarves but need:

Tooth brushes
Tooth paste
Deodorant
Wet Wipes

Gloves
Lip Balm
Lotions

Hand sanitizers
THANK YOU!!!

Socks

Combs
Vaseline