

✠ Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠
September 13, 2026
8:15 & 10:45 AM



*Gathering People to Christ,
Building Believers in Christ,
Serving the World as Christ*



2113 Ravenna Street • Hudson OH 44236-3451 • 330.650.6550

Fax: 330.650.6685 • web: gloriadeihudson.org

The Rev. Dr. Eric Tritten, Senior Pastor, x28

Bob Brantsch, Director of Christian Education, x27

Sue Anderson, Director of Music Ministry

Ryann Jagger, Youth Director

Megan Polak, Preschool Director, x18

Becka Koudelka, Office Administrator, x26

Esther Williamson, Deaconess

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION . . .

The word “Sacrament” means that God is at work here. A Sacrament is an act of God, not just a pious ritual of the Church. What God does here is present us with the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, “in, with, and under” the bread and wine. It is more than just a reminder or a symbol of Christ. It is Christ. And so the proper approach is one of repentance for sin, and trust in God’s promise. “He is truly worthy who has faith in the words: Given and shed for you,” as Dr. Luther often said. We ask those who have never communed with us to please speak with the pastor before doing so. Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Welcome: We know that it is our calling in Christ to forgive one another, but that does not eliminate the question of how much or how often we should forgive others. It becomes a particularly vexing question when we are asked to forgive the same sin over and over again. The great temptation is for us to make forgiveness conditional upon the person no longer offending us with their words or actions, but God applies no such condition upon us. Our temptation is to count how often we forgive but to forget how often we are forgiven. Our weakness counts the sins of others, but could it be that God counts only the times we refused to forgive from the heart? We know the riches of the Lord’s limitless grace to forgive us without counting the cost. Today, we pray that we may joyfully receive this precious gift of forgiveness and joyfully forgive others in Christ’s name, counting not the cost to forgive but the cost to refuse forgiveness.

Assisted Listening Devices: are available for those who have trouble hearing the service. Please see an usher to use one.

Communication Cards: Please fill out the bright yellow communication cards located by the bulletins as you enter. If you are a visitor or your address has changed, please include that in the space provided. Prayer requests for next week may be written on the back.

Communion Procedure: Then, ushers will release one side at a time from the middle. The

pulpit side will fill in the front starting at the side closest to the street and fill in all the way to the other wall. The lectern side does the same in reverse—start from the wall closest to the lectern and fill in the entire way across to the other wall. Grape juice is in the outer ring and is lighter in color than the wine. The wine is darker in color. After communing, return to your seat via the side aisle. The entire congregation will be dismissed after all have communed. There are baskets for the used communion cups hanging on the outside edge of the first pew. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, alert an usher and the Pastor will bring communion to you.

Cushions are available for those who may need them; ask an usher for assistance.

Nursery Welcomes Your Child: The church nursery is available during both Sunday worship services and Sunday school for preschool age children and younger. The nursery is staffed with a professional Nanny. It is located to the right as you enter the building, just past the coat room.

Prayer Requests: Please use the pink sheets to request prayers to be read during the service. Place in the offering plate.

Quiet Room: The Luther Room (located at the end of the hall to the left as you enter the building) is available for use as a “quiet room.” It is equipped with comfortable chairs and a TV that shows the service.

Members and Visitors: Please take a moment to fill out the bright yellow Guest & Member Communication Cards and place it in the offering plate during the Offering time. Thank You.

Prelude

"The Faithful"

by R. Kevin Boesiger

Welcome / Temple Talk

Recognition of Laura Boicey's service (10:45)

Recognition of Megan Polak's ten years of service (10:45)

Stand

Hymn

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" LSB 793, sts. 1–2

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Memory Verse

Philippians 2:1-2

C So if there is any _____ in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Confession and Absolution

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.

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

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



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

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.

Gloria in Excelsis



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.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷‘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. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As 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. ²¹So 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

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The 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. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why 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; ¹¹for it is written,

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

¹²So 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.

Choir Anthem (8:15)

"O God of Heaven"

by Hal Hopson

Stand

Alleluia and Verse (10:45)

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 7/8 time signature. It contains the first line of the Alleluia: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The second staff continues the melody. The third staff contains the verse: "Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God." The fourth staff concludes with another Alleluia: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21–35

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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

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

²⁵And 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. ²⁶So the servant
fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have
patience with me, and I will pay you

everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him,
the master of that servant released him
and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant
fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have
patience with me, and I will pay you.’
³⁰He refused and went and put him in
prison until he should pay the debt.

³¹When 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. ³²Then
his master summoned him and said

to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his

master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So 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.

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 of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Children’s Sermon

Bob Brantsch, DCE

Hymn

“God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

LSB 582

Sermon

Be Reconciled

Dedication of Christian Education Staff

(See back cover)

Offertory Hymn

“We Praise You, O God”

LSB 785, sts. 1–3

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- A** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious King, we stand in need of Your mercy. Spare us and soften our hearts toward one another, that we would share in the forgiveness You deliver to us today. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- A** O God, help us to do as You have commanded us: to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- A** Heavenly Father, You sent the greater Joseph, Christ Jesus, to forgive His brothers. Build our homes upon that same mercy, that in them brother and sister, husband and wife, parent and child may live together in peace and give witness to the glory of God's gracious ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- A** Almighty Lord, You brought Joseph to rule and shepherd Egypt. Raise up new "Josephs" among us. Clothe them with Your mercy to forgive their enemies and give them wisdom to help make the world a better place. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- A** Lord of life and death, You are master of all goods and ills in this life, and You hold in Your hands all who suffer in the fellowship of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Comfort them, and let us confess that, whether we live or die, we belong to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- A** Holy Lord, lead us to pursue reconciliation, that we may stand before You forgiven and united in faith. Give us unity believing what You teach in Your Word and help us to walk together in harmony of life. Prepare us to receive Holy Communion with faith, and keep us in that faith trusting that in this precious gift of grace we truly receive Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Merciful Lord Jesus, You are always ready to forgive, though we deserve only punishment. Press the proclamation of this eager love deeply into our hearts, that we, too, may sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

A As often as we eat of this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Sit

Hymn	"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"	LSB 843, sts. 1–4
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Hymn	"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"	LSB 606, sts. 1–3
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Stand

Communion Dismissal

Post-Communion Canticle

"Nunc Dimittis"

LSB 211

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the staff. The lyrics are arranged in two columns, with the first column starting on the first line of the staff and the second column starting on the second line. The lyrics are as follows:

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

A 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 and Benediction

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

C Amen.

Memory Verse

Philippians 2:1–2

C So if there is any _____ in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Sit

Recognition of Laura Boicey's service (8:15)

Stand

Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

LSB 803, sts. 1–3

Postlude

"Gigue a l'Angloise"

by George Philipp
Telemann, (1681-1767)

Acknowledgments

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Dedication of Christian Education Staff

- P** You are being set apart today for important work within the ministry of Gloria Dei. Some of you are Preschool teachers and staff, and others are our Sunday School teachers, First Communion teachers, Confirmation teachers, Adult Education teachers, Small Group leaders, administrators, and helpers in our Christian Education program. May God bless you as you serve with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, peace, thankfulness, forgiveness, unity, and love.

Teachers: Lord, we pray for strength and faithfulness that we may diligently question and prepare.

We pray for joy that we may gladly open our hearts.

We pray for understanding that we may know when to support and when to challenge;

When to offer a steadying hand, and when to let the learner walk alone;

When to teach, and when to learn,

When to talk and when to listen.

We pray above all for love, that we may have and express care and concern for what is happening in the lives of others: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- P** We hereby celebrate our partnership in the Gospel with you and dedicate you as teachers in the Christian Education programs of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- P** Teachers in Christ, hear now the promise of our congregation to you:

C **Grateful for your constancy and labor, sensitive to the challenges of your work, confident that God is working through you, appreciative of our diverse skills and gifts, and caring for you as sisters and brothers in Christ, we will uphold you in our prayers, we will join with you in seeking the will of God, and we will walk with you in ever-maturing commitment to our Savior Jesus Christ. So help us, God. Amen.**