

Lord, how often should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

331 Weldon Street

Latrobe, PA 15650

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Pastor Jess Felici & Pastor Jason Felici

Pastor Emeritus Jeffrey Schock

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12 & 13, 2026

Welcome to Worship!

Pastors:

Rev. Jess Felici
Rev. Jason Felici

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The *worship bulletin* is intended to help guide us through our worship. Sections in **bold** print are for congregation response. Throughout the bulletin you will note two symbols that denote when the congregation is invited to stand (▲) or be seated (▼) as your body allows. *Large print copies* of our worship service and *wireless sound enhancers* are available.

We believe our risen Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of *Holy Communion* and we extend our Lord's invitation to all who are baptized to share in this meal.

Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please contact an usher if you need *communed in the pew*.



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12 & 13, 2026

Saturday 5:30pm, Sunday 8:15am (Broadcast, 98.7FM, 107.5FM, 1480AM, 910AM;
Livestream @www.trinitylatrobe.com), Sunday 10:45am

Service of Holy Communion

(ELW Setting 4)

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.

*The prelude is a signal to end our conversation and
prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

Prelude and Silent Prayer

10:45am

"Amazing Grace"

Christina Andrae

Welcome and Announcements

(at the end of the bell peal, please stand as your body allows)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

▲ Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
(please kneel or sit as your body allows, silence is kept for reflection)

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

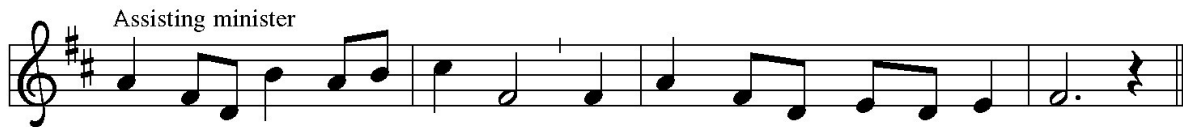
Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

▲ Gathering Hymn “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death” ELW #452

▲ 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.

▲ Glory to God



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

▲ Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

▼ Children's Message

▼ First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

All three lessons this Sunday focus on forgiveness. In the Genesis reading, it is about reassurance and forbearance. Joseph's brothers had sold him into slavery in Egypt, only to be rescued by him when they came fleeing a famine. He had forgiven and welcomed them, but perhaps (his brothers worried) only for their father's sake.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 103:1-13 (Leader/Assembly: Saturday, spoken; Sunday, sung)

This psalm echoes the readings' emphasis on forgiveness, reminding us that we forgive out of gratitude for God's forgiveness of us.

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.

(continued)

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 chil- | dren of Israel.
⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;
⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us, nor will you keep your an- | ger 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 a- | bove 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 transgres- | sions 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

Throughout this summer, we've been reading most of the Paul's letter to the Romans straight through. Having heard chapters of dense theological argument, we're nearing the end of the letter, when Paul's habit was to give advice to his correspondents. This advice, technically known as paraenesis, always takes seriously our position in the "meantime:" between God's action in Christ saving us and the approaching end of the age.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▲ Gospel Acclamation



▼ Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

This reading immediately follows last week's, when Jesus advised his followers to approach someone who offended them gently and individually first, then with a small group, and then to bring the conflict before the whole church, always holding out the hope of forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter, like so many of us, seems to have been uncomfortable with this process.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.’

(continued)

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.**

▼ **Sermon**

Pastor Jess Felici

▲ **Hymn of the Day**

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

ELW #605

▲ **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 the People (*please kneel or sit as your body allows*)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

▲ **The Peace**

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

(*share God’s peace with each other as you feel comfortable and then be seated*)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

▼ Gathering of Gifts

As we move to the time in our worship where we offer our gifts to God's church, a portion of your offering supports our Music Ministry- vocal and bell choirs, our Director of Music, substitute musicians, and special music. The music ministry of Trinity invites people to participate in the beauty of worship and the proclamation of the Word.



If you prefer, scan the QR code to give online. You may then place a giving card from the pew in the offering plate as it passes by.

▼ Anthem

“Forgiveness”

Sittler

▲ Offertory

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

ELW #691

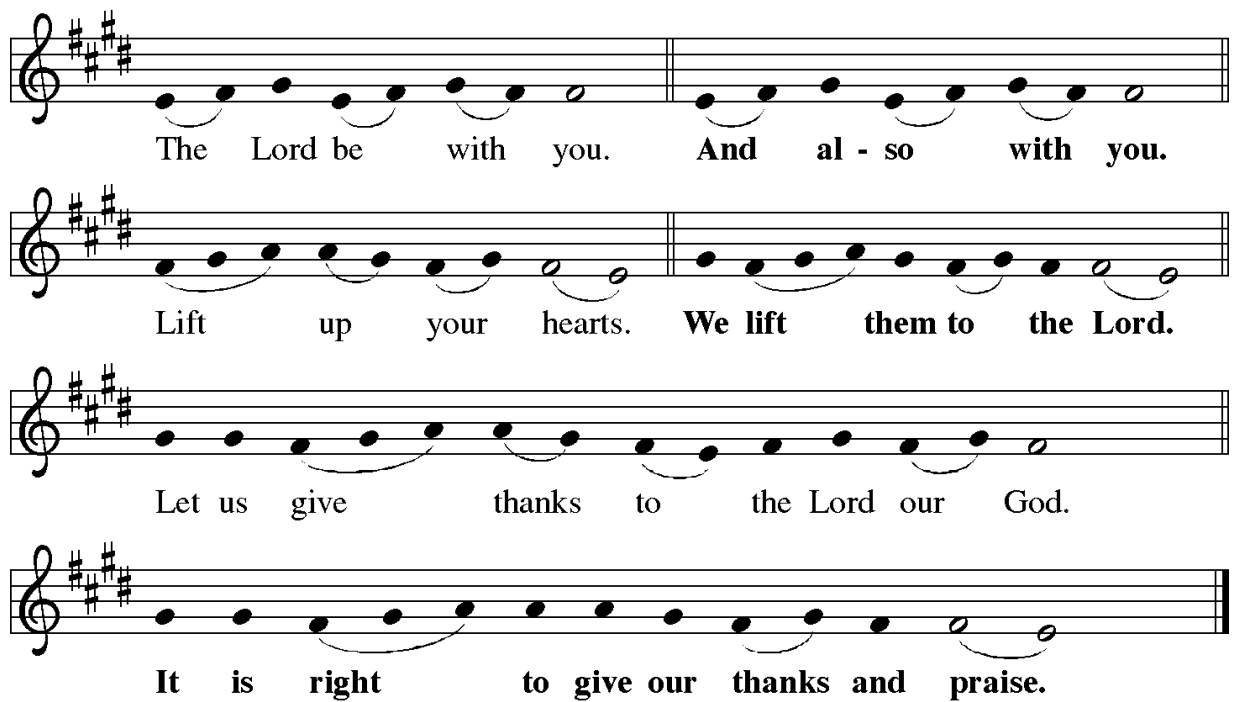
1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

▲ Offering Prayer

Let us pray. 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.

▲ Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

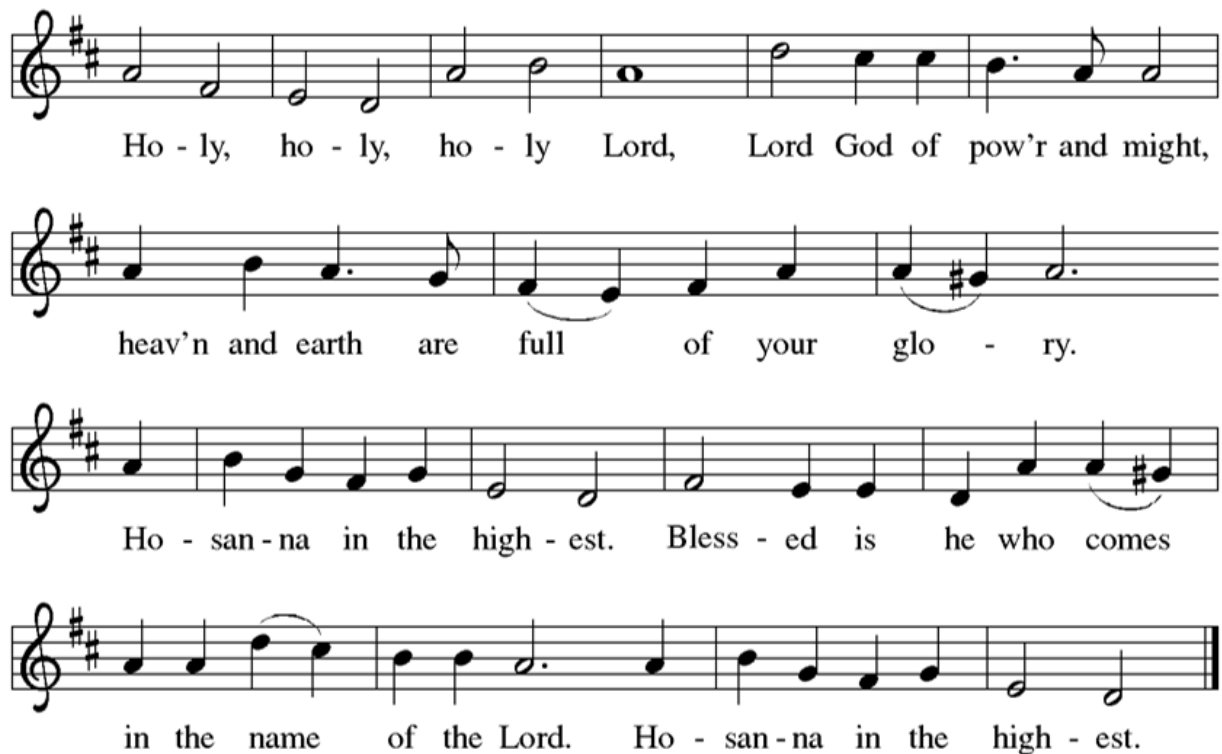
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

▲ Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

▲ Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 and hungry, come.

▲ Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

▼ Distribution of Communion

*To receive communion, please come down the center aisle, take a cup from the tray and gather at the altar rail. Receive the bread into your hand. Wine will be poured into your cup. **The communion wine is gluten free. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.** For those unable to receive wine, communion cups with water are available. Leave the altar rail, place your cup on the tray and return to your pew via the side aisles. If you desire to receive communion in the pew, please alert an usher. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

▲ Table Blessing

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

▲ Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. 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.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

▲ 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 Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace  bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

▲ Sending Hymn

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

ELW #864

▲ Dismissal

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

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEKEND are dedicated to the Glory of God in remembrance of all those who lost their lives on September 11th in 2001.

THE BROADCAST THIS WEEKEND is dedicated to the Glory of God in memory of all deceased members of Trinity, given by John & Diane Sproull.

Serving this Weekend

Preaching:	Pastor Jess Felici	Presiding:	Pastor Jason Felici
Director of Music:	Debbie Morley		
Lectors:	Saturday 5:30pm:	Linda McDowell	
	Sunday 8:15am:	Mark Jones	
	Sunday 10:45am:	Kathy Zamerski	
Liturgical Deacons:	Saturday 5:30pm:	Curt Colaianne	
	Sunday 8:15am:	Lucinda Nicely, Woneida Naggy	
	Sunday 10:45am:	Jim & Kathy Zamerski	
Ushers:	Saturday 5:30pm:	Linda McDowell, Beth Dlugos, David Horvath	
	Sunday 8:15am:	Sandy Kisick, Rick Baldonieri, Kathy & Mark Jones	
	Sunday 10:45am:	Jill & Mike Macey, Anna Hudec, Susan Vargo	
Acolytes:	Saturday 5:30pm:	Kelly Stanko	
	Sunday 8:15am:		
	Sunday 10:45am:		
Tellers:	Sunday 8:15am:	Sandy Kisick, Candace Bungard, Sherry Palmer	
	Sunday 10:45am:	Linda McDowell, Christina Andrae, Mike Macey, Darlene Schultz	

Acolytes Serving Next Weekend September 19 & 20

Saturday 5:30pm: Kelly Stanko
Sunday 8:15am:
Sunday 10:45am:

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