

Worship Service ~ September 17, 2023, 10:30 16th Sunday after Pentecost

VISION: Be the body of Christ:

welcoming all, inspired by God, and sent out to live our Faith.

MISSION: Led by the Spirit to share God's grace.

Today's Worship Broadcast is sponsored by Mary & Tony Buck
in honor of daughter Savannah's 25th Birthday.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OPENING SONGS *You Have Shown Us
Mighty to Save*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

L: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. O Lord God,

C: 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.

PRAYER LAB

R: A reading from Genesis.

Genesis 50:15-21

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

R: A Gospel reading from the 18th chapter of Matthew.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then 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?" ²²Jesus 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. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

MESSAGE Pastor John Klawiter



MUSICAL OFFERING *"He Will Hold Me Fast"*

*You can give online by scanning the QR code.
Cash/Checks can be put in the secure offering boxes by
the exit doors. Thank you for giving to Faith!*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray. God of power,

**C: all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *You are invited to come forward at the
direction of the ushers to receive communion.*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you; the Lord look upon you with favor and
give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG *Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone*

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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