

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

HYMN ELW #689

insert

KYRIE

HYMN OF PRAISE

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.**

FIRST LESSON - see Celebrate

PSALM 103: [1-7] 8-13 see Celebrate

SECOND LESSON - see Celebrate

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Halle, Halle, Halle

THE GOSPEL - see Celebrate insert

SERMON

HYMN ELW #592

LLC # 445

APOSTLES CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - see Celebrate

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY / OFFERING PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION WITH LORD'S PRAYER

Thanksgiving and Sanctus

Eucharistic Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Distribution / Lamb of God

Blessing

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN ELW # 779

LLC # 437

BENEDICTION / ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISMISSAL

Worship Booklet
"Praise and Thanksgiving"
"Te Damo Gracias"

Worship Booklet
Worship Booklet

GENESIS 50:15-21

ROMANS 14:1-12

Worship booklet
MATTHEW 18:21-35

"Just As I Am"
"Tal Como say de pecador"
Worship Booklet

Worship booklet
Worship Booklet

"Amazing Grace"
"Sublime Gracia"

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

SUNDAY

10:00 A.M.

Worship

The flowers on the Altar are given by Pastors Linda and Dennis.

We welcome Rev. Beverly Banyay as our preacher this morning.

Let us pray for...

Melissa Stoller, **Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod**

Peter Asplin and Erin Jones, **Assistants to the Bishop**

Rev. Yehiel Curry, **Presiding Bishop, ELCA**

Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, **President, Lutheran World Federation**

President Modeste, **Tulear Synod, Malagasy Lutheran Church**

HEALING & SPECIAL NEEDS: Refugees & asylum seekers, Rachel F., Fernando, Rose & Chip, Judy H., Roni, Karin, Tommy C., Lana, Dayton, Nan, Sandra, Marion, Karen M., Yuri, Mitzi, Lynn & Zach, Debbie B., Myschel, Janet, Bob, Wael's family, Mark, Eric, Debbie K., Leilani, Carol G., Debbie, Marlene, Kandy Sue, Robin, Louie, Kat, Hunter, Laura, Pam, Jeff C, Courtney, Mindy, Tony, Joann, Luis S., Carole & Len, Brian P & work colleagues, Lisa, Debbie C, Barb G., Analisa B, Debbie, Pr Jin, Terry, Yinke, Jordan, Jim, Amy S., Nancy, Darlene & Al, Noah, Colton, Pam S., Pastors Adrien & Dumano, Katsiaryna, Pr Ken, Burt and all with undiagnosed illnesses.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: Kevin Walter, Howard Davidson, David Taylor, Pierre Damas Bel, Rafael Vela Gonzalez

HOMEBOUND: Fran Walsh, Carole Hill

NURSING HOME & ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Jane Freund (Concordia Ridgewood-Plum); Shirley & Jack Pickens (William Penn Center); Roni Mayhood (Merakey); Esther Schwab (Seneca Manor); June Minnear (Beatty Point Village); Peggy Ebert (Kane-McKeesport)

CAREGIVERS: Judy M., Chris, Chip, Darlene, Alexis, John, Barbara, Daniel, Dawn

EMPLOYMENT: Spirit Airlines employees, Doug M., Justin K., Lana

COUNTRY OF THE MONTH: Palestine, Israel and Lebanon

MISSION PARTNER: Holy Trinity - East Pittsburgh

CHURCH OF THE MONTH: Zion Church – Penn Hills

LUTHERAN AGENCY: Lutheran University Center

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH: Wilkins STEAM Academy

CELEBRATE –16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,

September 13, 2026

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First Reading: 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.

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.

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

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

- [¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.
²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God’s benefits—
³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
⁴who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.
⁶O LORD, you provide vindication

- and justice for all who are oppressed.
⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.]
⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³As 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.

- ¹Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.
³Those 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. ⁴Who 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.
⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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.
⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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, 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.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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.”

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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 (*like John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we remember today*) 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 (*especially...*).

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

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin.

Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory.

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember (*name/s, and*) 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.