

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

"Justice and Mercy" – Matthew 18:21-35

8:30 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH and CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL

8305 NOTTINGHAM PARKWAY
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40222

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We warmly welcome you in the name of Jesus!

We are always glad to have you worship with us.

*If you do not have a regular church home,
we invite you to make our church home yours.*

- † Our worship services are on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. We also invite and encourage you to join us in Sunday School and Bible Study at 9:45 AM.
- † Assisted hearing devices, children's bulletins, and large print service folders are available -- please ask an usher for one.
- † While we encourage children to be present in worship, the upstairs cry room opposite the elevator is available for you.
- † Our worship services can now be viewed on the church's Facebook page (live or after the service), as well as on our YouTube channel. *The Lutheran Hour* can be heard on Sundays at 9:00 AM at KAWZ (102.7FM).

Prayer before worship:

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

AS WE GATHER God's creation is filled with amazing creatures, some of which dedicate their lives to making peoples' lives fuller and better. Since 1942, the Guide Dogs for the Blind association has graduated more than 16,000 person and dog teams from its training programs. The canine guides assist their human teammates each day of their lives together. The guidance they give is expert and dependable. Good guidance in every stage of life is essential! Throughout Scripture, our Lord promises His presence and His divine guidance to sustain and direct His people. Paul summed up that blessed relationship very simply: "So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). Seeking the Lord's guidance and responding to His promptings brings blessing to our lives!

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING 5

This Chorale Service follows the tradition of Luther's German Mass (1526), in which parts of the liturgy for Holy Communion are replaced with hymns (metrical paraphrases).

Confession and Absolution

Prelude and Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Opening Prayer



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in
 2 What can these anx - ious cares a - void thee, These nev - er -
 3 Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful
 4 God knows full well when times of glad - ness Shall be the



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be -
 ceas - ing moans and sighs? What can it help if thou be -
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's
 need - ful thing for thee. When He has tried thy soul with



tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
 wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and
 plea - sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath sent, Nor doubt our
 sad - ness And from all guile has found thee free, He comes to



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.
 tri - als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.
 in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.
 thee all un - a - ware And makes thee own His lov - ing care.

- 5 Nor think amid the fiery trial**
That God hath cast thee off unheard,
That he whose hopes meet no denial
Must surely be of God preferred.
Time passes and much change doth bring
And sets a bound to ev'rything.
- 6 All are alike before the Highest;**
'Tis easy for our God, we know,
To raise thee up, though low thou liest,
To make the rich man poor and low.
True wonders still by Him are wrought
Who setteth up and brings to naught.
- 7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,**
Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.

**God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.**

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt., Text and tune: Georg Neumark, 1621–81 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation / Opening Sentences

Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 8

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

People: Amen.

Leader: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

People: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

Leader: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! . . .

People: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”

Leader: Come and see what God has done:

People: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

Leader: Bless our God, O peoples;

People: let the sound of His praise be heard.

Confession and Absolution

Leader: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: O most gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We know well that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your faithful servants. We have been unforgiving and loveless and careless in the stewardship of Your creation. We deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and guide us into renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.

Pastor: God is indeed gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Service of the Word

Kyrie

[tune: ST. ANNE]

Have mercy on Your people, Lord.

Have mercy, Christ, our King;

Renew us by Your mercy, Lord;

Accept the prayers we bring.

Text: Dorothy Hoyer Scharlemann, 1912–2002 © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hymn of Praise

[tune: DIADEMATA]

Worthy is Christ our Lord,
The Lamb for sinners slain,
Whose blood has set His people free,
Who over all now reigns.
To Him be glory now,
To Him be pow'r and might,
To Him be wisdom, honor, strength;
The Victor in the fight.

Text: Randall Haedge, © 2008 Randall Haedge. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: 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.

People: Amen. Sit

Old Testament Reading

Joseph and his brothers.

Genesis 50:15–21

Reader: When 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." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, '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. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As 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. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

We belong to the Lord.

Romans 14:1–12

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

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The 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. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why 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; for it is written,

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

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

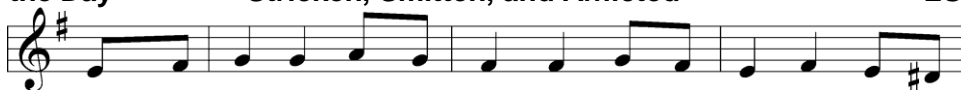
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of the Day

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

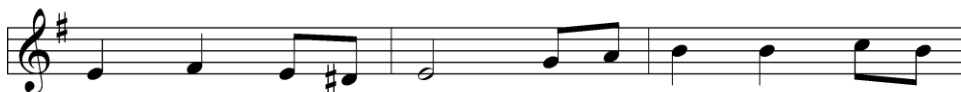
LSB 451



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its
lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - pect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



Proph - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the
wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt., Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, 1850, Paderborn, Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Holy Gospel

The parable of the servant who would not forgive.

Matthew 18:21–35

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

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

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And 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. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But 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.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When 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. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ. *Please be seated.*

Sermon

“Justice and Mercy”

Matthew 18:21-35

Guest Preacher: Rev. Richard O. Schultz

Stand.

Creedal Hymn

In God We Believe

[tune: ST. DENIO]

**In God we believe: the Creator whose pow’r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.**

**In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.**

**God’s Spirit at work in our lives we confess;
With power and truth the Church now He does bless.
As saints, God’s forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. Amen.**

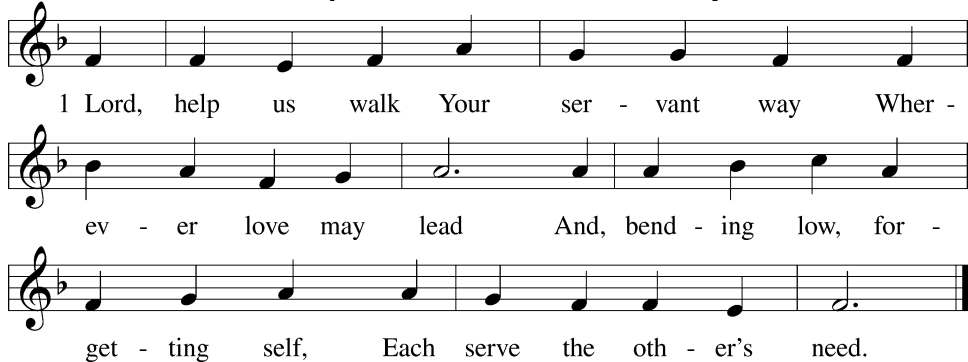
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Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, that God's people live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. Grant that humility and mutual service be the hallmarks of our lives together.

Hymn Verse **Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way** *LSB 857, st. 1*



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

Pastor: We pray for the nations of the world, that the presence of Christ be experienced everywhere around the globe and that the Gospel may have free course in every land. We bless You for the dedicated service of missionaries and deployed church workers in so many places around the globe. Grant that their service may meet with success and be filled with joy.

Hymn Verse **Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way** *LSB 857, st. 2*

**2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord,
But pow'r You laid aside.
You lived Your years in servanthood;
In lowliness You died.**

Pastor: We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship. Grant that we be always ready to listen to others and to grant our forgiveness when it is needed. As we live in community together, grant that we never take others for granted but rather that we encourage the labors in which we work together to the glory of God.

Hymn Verse **Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way** *LSB 857, st. 3*

**3 No golden scepter but a towel
You place within the hands
Of those who seek to follow You
And live by Your commands.**

Pastor: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut in, those who are grieving at this time, the unemployed and

underemployed, the chronically ill, and all those whose needs are known and not known to us, [especially . . .]. Grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places, even when that service requires devotion and sacrifice on our part.

Hymn Verse **Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way** **LSB 857, st. 4**
4 **You bid us bend our human pride**
 Nor count ourselves above
 The lowest place, the meanest task
 That waits the gift of love.

Pastor: Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. We thank You for the times when forgiveness, offered by others, has blessed and sustained us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant's way throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.

People: **Amen.**

Hymn Verse **Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way** **LSB 857, st. 5**
5 **Lord, help us walk Your servant way**
 Wherever love may lead
 And, bending low, forgetting self,
 Each serve the other's need.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007
Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002236

Be seated after the prayers.

Offering *During this time, we invite you to sign and pass the Friendship Book. All communicants are invited to read and prayerfully consider the following.*

We believe that...

- † *Holy Communion is a Sacrament since it was instituted by Christ Himself.*
- † *We are truly worthy and well prepared to partake of Holy Communion when we repent of our sins and have faith in these words, "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins."*
- † *We receive the bread and wine and the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ when, as repentant, true believers we partake of Holy Communion.*

Our Savior Lutheran Church practices close communion.

What does this mean?

Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are welcome to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of our church or one of our sister congregations, we encourage you to speak to the pastor about preparing to participate in communion at Our Savior.

- † *Children and those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing (indicated by folded hands), or to remain seated for individual prayer. When the wine is offered, communicants have the choice of an individual cup or the common cup. Individual cups containing DARK WINE are alcohol-free for those with medical need only, please.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have called us as Your people and have shown us Your kindness. Confident of Your love and assured of Your mercy, we come before You, asking that we may receive Your blessings with heartfelt thanksgiving. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Holy Spirit and grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**People: 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.**

Pastor: In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

The Words of Our Lord

Pastor: 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."

Pastor: 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."

Sanctus

[tune: REGENT SQUARE]

Holy, holy Lord, most holy,
 Lord of hosts and God of might.
 Heav'n and earth---filled with Your glory.
 Hail! Hosanna! Our delight!
 Blest is He, our coming Lord-King,
 In the Lord's name---praise we sing.

Text: Randall Haedge, © 2008 Randal Haedge. Used by permission.

Pax Domini

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei

[tune: REGENT SQUARE]

Christ, the Lamb of God, have mercy,
 You now take our sins away.
 Christ, the Lamb of God, have mercy,
 All the world's sin, take away.
 Christ, the Lamb of God, have mercy,
 For Your peace we humbly pray.

Text: Randall Haedge, © 2008 Randal Haedge. Used by permission.

Distribution *Please be seated. If you are communing, please follow the directions of the ushers.*

Distribution Hymn

When Peace, like a River

LSB 763



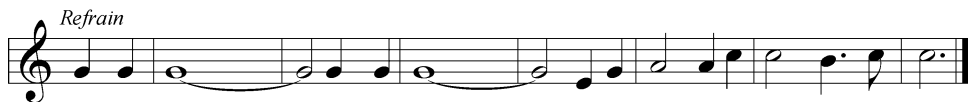
1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
 4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt., Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–76
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Post-Communion Hymn Lord, Let Your Servants Go in Peace [tune: OLD HUNDRETH]



1 Lord, let Your ser - vants go in peace; Your cov - e -
2 For all the na - tions He is light, For Is - rael,



nant shall nev - er cease. The prom - ised Sav - ior
glo - ry in plain sight. To Fa - ther, Son, and



here we see; His blood and bod - y set us free.
Spir - it sing— Three per - sons, yet for - ev - er one.

Text: James Pierce, Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
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Post-Communion Collect

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

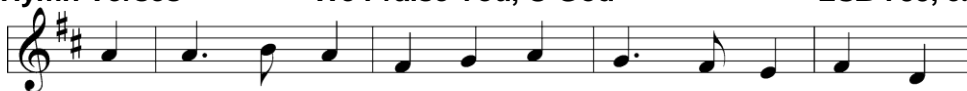
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn Verses

We Praise You, O God

LSB 785, sts. 1–2



1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;



In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.



We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,



We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.
Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, 1626, Haarlem
Text and tune: Public domain

Silent Prayer

Postlude

Acknowledgments

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Our mission is to teach, love, and connect...teach all ages about Jesus, love one another as God loves us, and connect with others in a hurting world.

Readings for next Sunday, 9/24

Isaiah 55:6–9

Psalm 27:1–9

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

Matthew 20:1–16
