

Welcome to Worship
September 17th, 2023

Prelude

Our Father, We Have Wandered ~ Johannes Brahms

Gathering Hymn

I Come with Joy ~ ELW 482

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 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.

Word of God. Word of life

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 103:1-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits-
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.

**You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.**

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

**you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

As far as the east is from the west,

so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
**As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

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.

Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Hymn of the Day

Where Charity and Love Are Shown ~ ACS 931

Musical Offering

Journey of Hope ~ Brenda E. Austin (Hallelujah Ringers)

Offertory Hymn

In the Singing ~ ELW 466

Communion Hymn

Our Father, We Have Wandered ~ 606

Sending Hymn

Praise My Soul, The God of Heaven ~ ELW 864

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God ~ Marcel Dupré