



September 20, 2020

16th Sunday after Pentecost

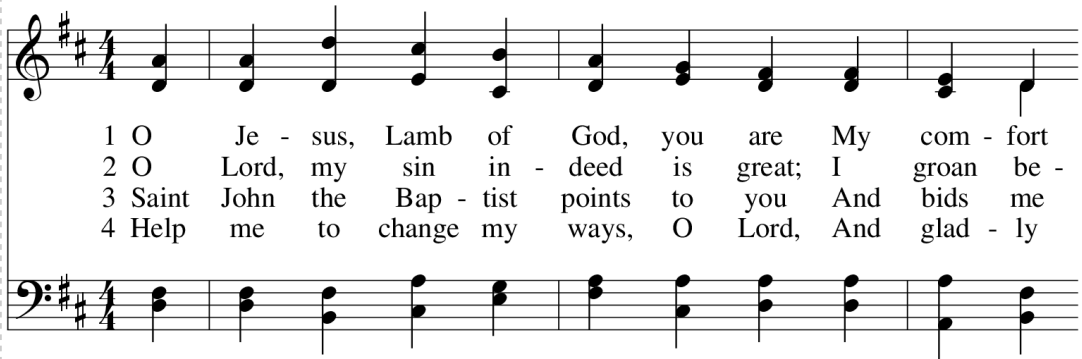
The Church fulfills her role as her brother's keeper. The privilege, responsibility and importance of this task all rest in the words from our Gospel lesson that follow Jesus' divine directive, "I tell you the truth..." The keys of the kingdom have been placed in our hands. It is our privilege and responsibility to bind and to loose—to be our brother's keeper—because Christ has appointed the Church to carry out that task on his behalf. Note carefully today's emphasis as opposed to next Sunday's to keep from duplicating themes. Next Sunday deals with forgiving our neighbor as God forgave us. While forgiveness is inherent in Christian discipline, today we note the work of the Christian and the Church to reach out with Law and Gospel for the sake of the fallen brother.



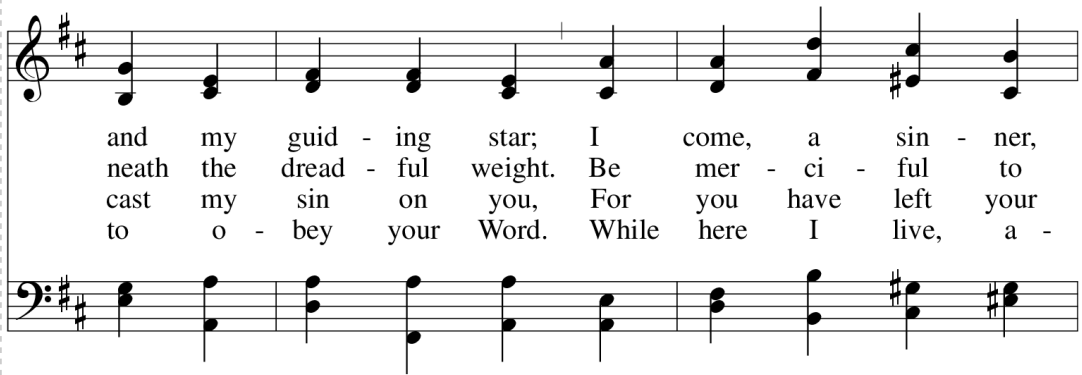
Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

O Jesus, Lamb of God, You Are

27



1 O Je - sus, Lamb of God, you are My com - fort
 2 O Lord, my sin in - deed is great; I groan be -
 3 Saint John the Bap - tist points to you And bids me
 4 Help me to change my ways, O Lord, And glad - ly



and my guid - ing star; I come, a sin - ner,
 neath the dread - ful weight. Be mer - ci - ful to
 cast my sin on you, For you have left your
 to o - bey your Word. While here I live, a -



trust - ing - ly And bring my man - y sins with me.
 me, I pray; Take guilt and pun - ish - ment a - way.
 throne on high To suf - fer for the world and die.
 bide with me, Then take me home e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Bartholomäus Helder, 1585-1635; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
 Tune: C. P. E. Bach, 1714-88

WEIMAR
 LM

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 33:7-11 (NIV84)

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸ When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. ⁹ But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. ¹⁰ “Son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?” ’ ¹¹ Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?’

PSALM 51a

*read responsively by the pastor and **congregation***

Have mercy on me, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,*
and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.

Surely I was sinful at birth,*
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Hide your face from my sins,*
and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 13:1-10 (NIV84)

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. ⁴ For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. ⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. ⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia.
(Philippians 4:4)

STAND

M: The Gospel is from Matthew, chapter 18, beginning at verse 15.

C: **Glory be to you, O Lord!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20 (NIV84)

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.¹⁸ “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”¹⁹ “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.”²⁰ For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

SERMON

The Christian Rebukes Other Christians

Matthew 18:15-20

OFFERING

GOOD NEWS FOR KIDS

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your Word, and bring salvation to people everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold all who serve you and your people. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church. Help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the gospel. Help us, your Church, to grow in love for you and for one another, so that we become more perfect witnesses of your love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Almighty and eternal God, graciously direct those who have been set in positions of authority among us, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. In your mercy hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.


C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven

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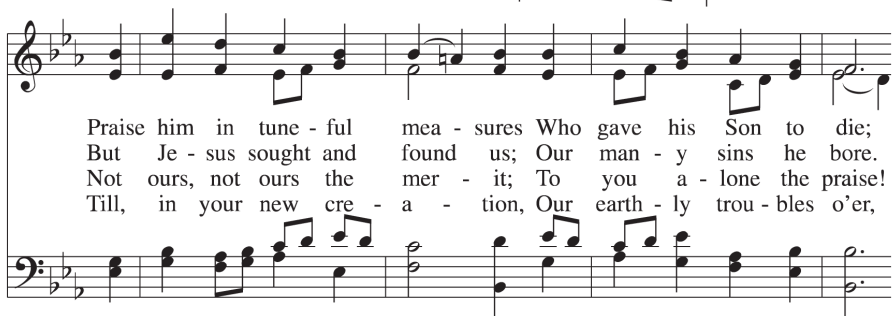
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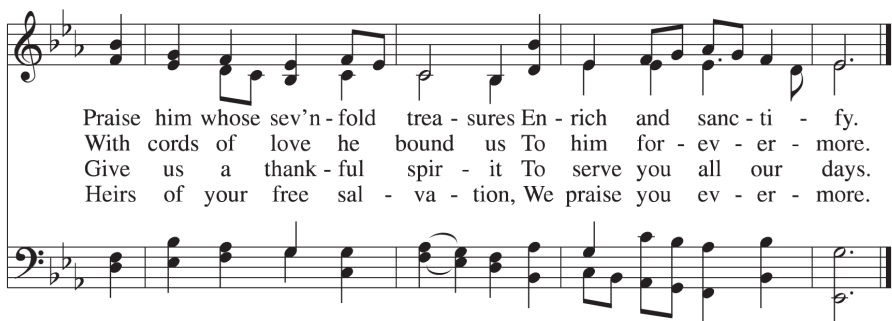
1 Re - deemed, re - stored, for - giv - en Through Je - sus' pre - cious blood,
 2 Once on the drear - y moun - tain We wan - dered far and wide,
 3 Dear Mas - ter, yours the glo - ry Of each re - cov - ered soul.
 4 Now keep us, ho - ly Sav - ior, In your true love and fear,



Heirs of his home in heav - en — Oh, praise our par - d'ning God!
 Far from the cleans - ing foun - tain, Far from the pierc - ed side.
 Ah, who can tell the sto - ry Of love that made us whole?
 And grant us by your fa - vor The grace to per - se - vere



Praise him in tune - ful mea - sures Who gave his Son to die;
 But Je - sus sought and found us; Our man - y sins he bore.
 Not ours, not ours the mer - it; To you a - lone the praise!
 Till, in your new cre - a - tion, Our earth - ly trou - bles o'er,



Praise him whose sev'n - fold trea - sures En - rich and sanc - ti - fy.
 With cords of love he bound us To him for - ev - er - more.
 Give us a thank - ful spir - it To serve you all our days.
 Heirs of your free sal - va - tion, We praise you ev - er - more.

Announcements

In Our Prayers

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list.

Lindsay Behl - expecting in November

Kirk Twelmeyer - surgery recovery

Greg Lewis - surgery

No 10:30 Service on September 27

Those who attend the 10:30 am service can join the 9:15 am service or the online worship. Pastor Pfeifer will depart immediately after the 9:15 service to lead a call meeting in Cedar Rapids as the congregation seeks to call a second pastor for their mission outreach in North Liberty.

Pastors' Conference Meal

We are hosting pastors from the Southern Conference (Iowa and Missouri) on September 28-29. The host congregation provides an evening meal for the pastors. We are serving burgers and brats. If you would like to help by providing a salad or dessert, please let Pastor Pfeifer know.

Parsonage Siding and Painting - Help Wanted

The parsonage will soon have new siding and gutters. We are looking for some volunteers to help with painting. Please let John Thielke know if you are interested in helping and whether you can help weekdays or the weekend. We will contact volunteers when we have a schedule for painting.

Church and Parsonage Roofs

Our insurance has approved new roofs for the church and parsonage. We hope to get this work completed before winter. We are waiting on more information from the insurance so we can coordinate with a contractor.

Building Fund - Window Replacement

Thanks to all who have begun to contribute to the Building Fund. Through the end of August we have received just over \$2000. Our goal is to replace windows and siding at the church. The project is estimated to be about \$55,000. The scope of the work we begin next year will depend on donations to the building fund. Simply mark the Building Fund on your envelope to contribute. Thanks again for your generous gifts.

Hy-Vee Helping Homeless Ministry

Lincoln Heights Lutheran Church-Homeless Ministry will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable red "My Heart" Bag at the Hy-Vee store located at 3221 SE 14th Street, Des Moines IA. (corner of SE14th Street and Park Ave.)

Prepare for Next Sunday

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the reading for this week on Monday - Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday - Saturday. The Word for next Sunday: *Genesis 50:15-21, Romans 14:5-9, Matthew 18:21-35*

THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS

September 20 - 27

Today	8:00 am	Worship—Livestream
	8:45 am	Sunday School and Bible Study
	9:15 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Worship
	3:00 pm	Kunama Worship
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Campus Ministry via Zoom
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Catechism
	7:00 pm	Zoom Bible Class
Saturday	3:30 pm	Homeless Meal Preparation
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship—Livestream
	8:45 am	Sunday School and Bible Study
	9:15 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Worship
	3:00 pm	Kunama Worship

Thanks to Kris Olson for playing the organ at the 8:00 and 9:15 am services.

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