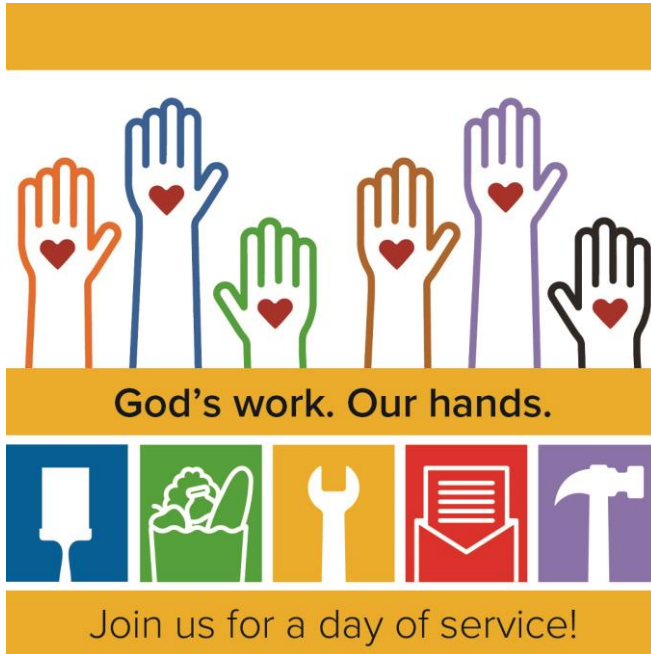


# Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2026 • 9:30 a.m.



**ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**

1100 E Murdock Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901

## Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

P: Pastor   A: Assisting Minister   L: Lector   C: Congregation/All

*\* Invitation to stand*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

### \* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who pours love into our hearts  
and healing upon the earth.

**C: Amen.**

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness  
in the world and in our own hearts.**

**Creation groans from overuse.**

**Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.**

**Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.**

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love  
to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you.**

**Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.**

**Renew us to live as your holy people,  
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ,  
in whom there is no condemnation,  
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.  
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**C: Amen.**

\* Gathering Hymn:

*God's Work, Our Hands*

ACS 1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## **\*The Apostolic Greeting**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

# \* Kyrie (Assisting Minister sings verses)



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## \* Hymn of Praise

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -

le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



## \* Prayer of the Day

P: 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.**

## 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.*

L: A reading from the book of Genesis.

<sup>15</sup> Realizing 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?" <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> '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. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even 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. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 103:8-13

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

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

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

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

A: As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

**C: As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**

## Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

L: A reading from the book of Romans.

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those 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. <sup>4</sup> Who 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.

<sup>5</sup> Some 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. <sup>6</sup> Those 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.

<sup>7</sup> For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For it is written,

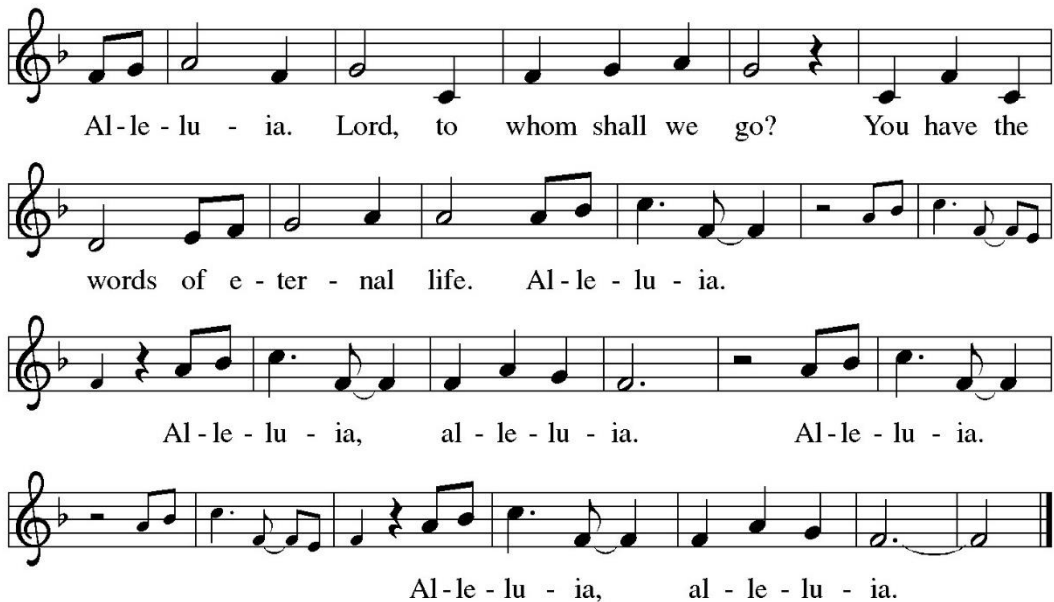
“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup> So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## \* Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## \* **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.*

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> 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?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> 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.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

\* Hymn of the Day:

*To Be Your Presence*

ELW 546

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The lyrics are: 1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com - 2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the 3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy poor and shel - ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice, all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the ev - er near, right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia! love ex - pressed, church, re - joice,

1 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion here, to show com -  
2 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion bold, to feed the  
3 To be your pres - ence is our mis - sion blest, to speak for  
4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas - sion's face and lis - t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer - cy  
poor and shel - ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus - tice,  
all the bro - ken and op - pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
peo - ple is our call and choice, and in this mis - sion we, the

ev - er near,  
right up - hold, al - le - lu - ia!  
love ex - pressed,  
church, re - joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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## \* **The Apostles' Creed**

A: Together, let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## \* **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

*A brief silence.*

A: 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.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: 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.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: 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 those we name now in our hearts . . . . Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: You free us in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. Bless our hands as we do your work in the world today, on God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service. Give us courage to feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and walk with the lonely. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## \* **Sharing the Peace**

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

C: **And also with you.**

## ***Our Offerings for God's Work***

Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary, as you enter or leave the church.

### **Special Music**

"Touch That Soothes and Heals" – words: M.L. Bringle; music: G. DeMey  
*St. Andrew's Choir*

### **\* Offertory Hymn:      *God Bless To Us Our Bread*      ACS 1056** **(Sing 2 times)**



God bless to . . us our . . bread, and give bread . . to all those who are



hun - gry, and hun - ger for jus - tice to those who are



fed. God bless to . . . us our . . . bread.

Text: Argentine traditional, collected by Federico Pagura, 1923–2016; tr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: BENDICE NUESTRO PAN, Argentine melody, collected by Federico Pagura; arr. John L. Bell

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## \* Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of creation,

you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,

today and always.

C: **Amen.**

## \* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \* The Eucharistic Prayer

*It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \* The Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## \* Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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.**

## \* Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

- † **All are welcome at this table.** Please follow the direction of the ushers as you make your way forward to the altar rail.
- † You will receive a wafer, then be offered a cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are also available.
- † If it is either your practice or preference to not receive Communion today, please know that you are still welcome to come forward and receive a blessing.
- † There is space on both sides of the sanctuary if you would desire to light a candle and observe a quiet moment of reflection as you return to your seat.
- † If you need Holy Communion brought to you, please inform one of the ushers.

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**\* The Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

**\* Prayer After Communion**

A: Let us pray:  
Sustaining God,  
with this bread and cup,  
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.  
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.  
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,  
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**\* Benediction**

P: The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

P: The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

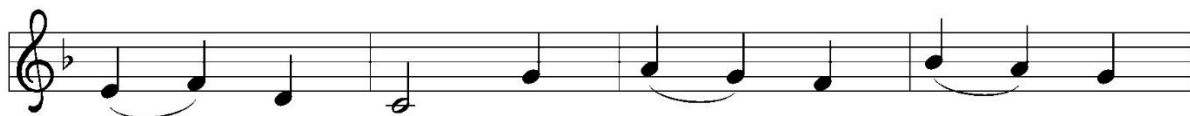
P: The God of grace  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\* **Sending Hymn:**    *The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve*    **ELW 551**



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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\* **Dismissal**

**A:** Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

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St. Andrew's Lutheran Church  
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## Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 8 am - noon