

Pentecost 16

September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 19 (Year A)

Forgiveness is often a very difficult subject, even for those who know that we are called to forgive if we want to be forgiven. In our human sinfulness we seek to justify ourselves, coming up with reasons why our brother or sister does not deserve to be forgiven. Joseph speaks a word of forgiveness to his scheming brothers, pointing to the reality that God can work through great pain to bring healing of relationships.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21**Joseph's Brothers Conspire Against Him**

After the death of Jacob, their father, Joseph's brothers continued to look out for themselves by coming up with a plan to procure Joseph's forgiveness for their prior betrayal of him. Joseph, despite what he had suffered, was able to see God at work for good, even when his brothers' intentions and actions were evil.

Psalm 103:1-12**Bless the Lord, O My Soul**

The psalmist sang of the God of forgiveness and praised him for his ways throughout the history of Israel. God's steadfast love covers our sins and brings justice for the oppressed, he sang.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**Paul Explains Differences in Piety**

Paul taught the Roman Christians that people express their faith in ways that might be different from one another. One may eat meat while another refrains from eating meat. One may observe a day as special while another sees it as any other day. This is done by faith; personal piety is not meant to be judged as we all live unto the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35**The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

Peter posed a question to Jesus about the number of times one offers forgiveness to those who have done wrong. Jesus' parable reminds us that we are all sinners in need of forgiveness. To withhold such a blessing from others is to fail to appreciate the true meaning of having our own debts wiped away.

Suggestions for the Day:

*Liturgical Color: Green**During the Season of Pentecost:*

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

- Use the Apostles' Creed.

Forgiveness is a wondrous gift we give to others and to ourselves. When we truly understand the forgiveness of Christ, we are more able to offer that same forgiveness to others. Christ forgives our debt of sin and offers us new life.

Consider adding to the worship service today a time of individual blessing and forgiveness after the sermon and before the Hymn of the Day.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Lord of All Hopefulness	469	---	738	765	200	200
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive	307	---	843	605	---	---
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	290	---	---	587	186	186
Salvation Unto Us Has Come	297	---	555	590	---	---
Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus	389	---	660	---	78	78
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	---	731	739	773	206	206
Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise	---	801	680	826	41	41
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543	---	790	858	11	11
For the Bread Which You Have Broken	200	---	---	494	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The Reclaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Lord Have Mercy
(CCLI# 2989578)
Come Just As You Are
(CCLI# 1189479)
In Jesus' Name
(CCLI# 6454638)
Bless the Lord
(CCLI# 147704)
Thank You, Lord
(CCLI# 4220833)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.