

Forgiveness

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Matthew 18:21-22

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 13, 2026

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer:

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. Amen.

Today's Service: *Service of Word and Sacrament, NPH; used with permission under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.*

Today's Theme

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS FORGIVENESS IS FOR ME

Forgiveness does not come naturally to human beings. It is expected that humans will defend themselves, lash out when attacked, hold grudges, and bite back. So, when human beings hear that they are forgiven, they may even be suspicious or skeptical.

Jesus tells a parable that contrasts the forgiveness of God with our own unforgiving sinful nature. God forgives our huge debt. Who can comprehend such unexpected mercy? Certainly not unmerciful servants, who refuse to forgive small debts. Have mercy on us, Lord, and teach us to forgive like you!

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn: **CW 733** "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (CW93 493)

Invocation

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

Congregation: Amen.

Please Stand

Confession and Absolution

P: Since we are here assembled to hear God's Word, to call upon Him in prayer, and to receive the body and blood of Christ, let us first think of our unworthiness; confess before God our sins of thought, word, and deed; and acknowledge also that we, by our own strength, cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature or the sins we have committed. Therefore, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy and grace of our heavenly Father, seeking and imploring Him to behold us through Jesus Christ, saying:

C: God have mercy on me, a poor, sinful being, forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and grant to me the Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful ways; through Jesus Christ, my Lord, I pray. Amen.

P: God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Kyrie

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,

but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
 O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
 you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

Salutation

P: May the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, in Your goodness You acted with patience toward us sinners and delivered up Your own Son to be our Savior and Redeemer. Grant to us patience with the erring and grace to forgive one another as You have forgiven us, presuming nothing but in all things holding fast to Jesus Christ; through Him who died that we might live and who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

The First Lesson: **Genesis 50:15-21** – Joseph was quick to forgive his brothers.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

(NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Psalm 103



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.



Praise the LORD, Ó my soul;*
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

He forgives all your sins*
and heals all your diseases;

he redeems your life from the grave*
and crowns you with love and compassion.

Refrain

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,*
slow to anger, abounding in love.

He does not treat us as our sins deserve*
or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,*
so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,*
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Refrain

As a father has compassion on his children,*
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

for he knows how we are formed,*
he remembers that we are dust.

Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;*
the wind blows over it and it is gone.

But the LORD's love is with those who fear him*
from everlasting to everlasting.

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.

Refrain

The Second Lesson: **Ephesians 4:29-5:2** – Kindness, compassion, and forgiveness are marks of God’s Church.

⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **5** ¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (NIV 2011)

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

P: Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Please Stand

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

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 18:21-35** – The ability to forgive others comes from the Spirit enabling us to understand how much God has forgiven us.

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise be to You O Christ!

Please be Seated

Hymn of the Day: **CW 624** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (CW93 234)

The Sermon Genesis 50:15-21 “Forgiveness Is Not Earned but Given!”

Please Stand

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be Seated

Offering

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



Please Stand

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

Silence for prayer

P: Grant us, O Lord, wisdom to consider the manifold sins Your grace has forgiven and courage to show this forgiveness to others in Your name. Keep us from being stingy with the mercy You have so generously shown to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord, and teach us not to count the cost of forgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

- P: Give boldness to Your church, that we who know the Gospel of Jesus Christ crucified and risen proclaim it to the ends of the earth. Bless the pastors who faithfully deliver these gifts to us in Word and Sacrament and the church workers who serve us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: Deliver us, O Lord, from the burden of those who would lead us without the wisdom and counsel of Your Word and give to us in this land and throughout the world leaders who will act with integrity and justice to all. Bring peace to the troubled regions of our world and help us to work together for the common good. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: Bless this congregation and all missions and mission fields with an abundance of Your Holy Spirit, that the work of Your kingdom would prosper among us for the glory of Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: Deliver, O Lord, the troubled in mind, the wounded in body, and those whose spirits despair, that by Your healing and strength they endure the day of their trial and be kept safe in Your arms to everlasting life, [*and especially for . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: Give Your blessing to the homes in which Your people dwell, to the married and single, to those with children, and to those whose desire for a child has not been fulfilled, that in every place and at every time we rejoice in Your goodness in ordering all things for our good. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: Deliver us, O Lord, from every temptation that would befall us and teach us to lean upon Your strength and to be covered with the righteousness of Christ when the devil comes seeking whom he may devour. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: Make us to be of one mind and one will, perfectly united in doctrine and faith, so that our communion here will testify to this harmony of belief; and grant to us grace so that we receive this Sacrament of Christ's body and blood always for our good and never in judgment against us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: The days are coming, O Lord, when all will be held to account before You. Grant us faith through these difficult days that we be brought to everlasting life, joined with the faithful who have lived and died in Christ and know Your perfect peace. Give comfort to all who grieve, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: **hear our prayer.**

Silence for meditation

- P: You know our needs and have promised to give us all things needful for this life and to bring us to everlasting life. Grant us also grateful hearts that we be cheered by Your mercies, new every morning, and live and rest in Your peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised wherever two or three come together in His name, there He is with them to shepherd His flock until He comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray.

Blessed are You, O Lord, God of power and might, for in Your tender mercy You gave up Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon Him and to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. Now assembled in Your name and in the communion of all the saints, we pray You to grant to us the Holy Spirit and to sanctify and renew us in body and soul through Him whom You have sent, that we may make a worthy communion this day, trusting in the merits of Christ alone and keeping faithfully all that we taste here. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution (Spoken by the Pastor)

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

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



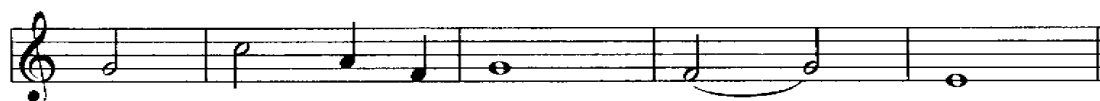
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Our Communion Practice

New Life Lutheran Church practices “close communion.” We ask that only members of New Life or other WELS or ELS churches partake of the sacrament. We ask our visitors to please respect our communion practice.

The Distribution Hymn: CW 663 “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” (CW93 311)

Please Stand

Thank the Lord



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Blessing

P: 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.
C: Amen.

Please be Seated

The Closing Hymn: CW 697 “May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill” (CW93 458)

Announcements

Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Dall

Today—Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Communion Service at 9:30 AM
Fellowship at 10:30 AM
Adult Bible Class and Sunday School at 10:45 AM

Monday—Online Bible Study at 6:30 PM

Wednesday—Catechism Class from 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Friday—Men’s Bible Study at 11:30 AM

Saturday—Ukraine Study Group from 9 AM-3 PM
Online Outreach Meeting at 10:00 AM

Next Sunday—Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Divine Service at 9:30 AM
Fellowship at 10:30 AM

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

The Adult Bible Class will start up again today with a study on the book of Ephesians. All adults are welcome to attend. The class meets upstairs immediately following fellowship time in the Café area, next to the chapel.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

“S” is for “September” and “Sunday School!” The Sunday School will start its fall session today at 10:45 AM. All students (ages 3-14 years) are welcome to join this class.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER SIGN-UP

The Sunday School will be taught by a rotation of teachers this year. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. All teaching materials as well as a teacher’s guide will be provided for our volunteers. Please consider signing up for a Sunday. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

“Men in the Church” is the topic for the Men’s Bible Study class which will have its first meeting on Friday, September 11th at 11:30 AM. Feel free to invite friends and family to this Bible Study.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

Are you ready for some Bible Study?! Pastor Feldhus will be hosting an online Bible Study on select Mondays, starting September 14th at 6:30 PM. The topic will be “Grand Themes and Key Words.” Everyone is welcome to join this Bible Study. Questions? Please see Pastor Feldhus.

CATHECISM CLASS

Confirmation starts up again this Wednesday. The time will be from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Please see Pastor Feldhus with any questions.

TONE CHIMES

The Tone Chime choir will have its first meeting of the school year sometime later this month. Please watch your church bulletin for more information. The choir is always looking for more chimers. No experience is needed – you don’t even need to know how to read music! Come and join the tone chime fun. Please see Joan James with any questions.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Feldhus is looking for young adults (ages 18-25 and teenagers as well) to join a new Young Adult Bible Study class. The class would meet once a month on a Sunday or Tuesday night. Come for the study and stay for dinner. Please let Pastor Feldhus know if you are interested in joining this class.

EVERY MEMBER VISIT

Pastor Feldhus would like to have the opportunity to visit with every member of New Life’s congregation. This could be at a member’s home, at church, at the Feldhus house, online . . .-whatever is most convenient and comfortable for you! Visits will take place on Thursdays, starting on September 10th.

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

Volunteers are needed to provide snacks for fellowship time. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall. The sheet covers the months of August through October. Please think about signing up for a slot, even if you have never done so before. This is a casual snack; nothing fancy is required – a couple of coffee cakes, donuts, a meat and cheese tray, fruit, a couple packages of cookies. . .any of these (or anything else) are truly welcomed and appreciated!

ADOPT-A-SAILOR

We are looking for volunteers to restart our Thanksgiving tradition of adopting sailors and giving them our appreciation. Before we commit to this endeavor, we need to know who is willing and able to help on Thanksgiving, which is November 26th. There is a sign-up sheet down in the fellowship hall. If there are enough volunteers, we will sign up with the Naval Base for this program.

