

HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ELCA



Sunday, September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"The Little Church with a Big Heart"

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mary Lou Plummer

Keyboard: Heidi Hintz Liturgist: Jim Hanstad

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP at HAINESVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

We're glad you're here. If you are visiting with us, please sign a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We thank you for joining us in worship and pray that our time together is a blessing to you. And.... please join us for our weekly fellowship brunch after worship. There's always plenty and you are very welcome. If you are looking for a faith community, we would be pleased to have you call HVLC your "church home".

PRELUDE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CHILDREN'S CHAT AND NOISY OFFERING

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

"Here in This Place"

Verse 1

**Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and dreamings**

**Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.**

Verse 2

**We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
We are the old who yearn for your face;
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.**

Verse 4

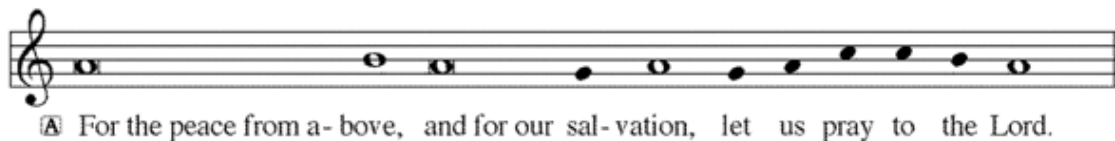
**Not in the dark of the buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light years away
Here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

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 (*setting 4 pp 147-148*)

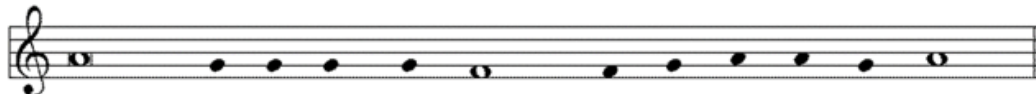




C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



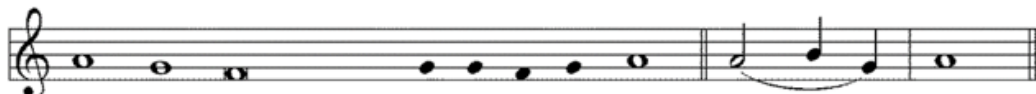
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

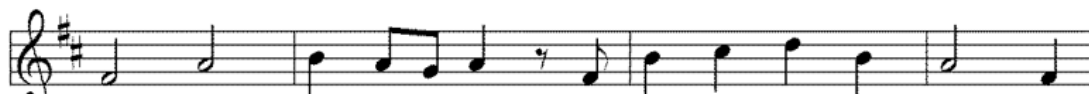


A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE *(setting 4 pp 149-150)*



A Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. 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

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

R The word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 *(read responsively)*

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave**

and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things

so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication**

and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses

and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,**

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

- ¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- ¹² **As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
- ¹³ 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

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

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

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

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For it is written,

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

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

R Word of God, Word of Life

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *(please stand as you are able)*



Al-le - lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. 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 18th chapter

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

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

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ 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.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked

slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’
³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ 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.**

GOD’S WORD FOR TODAY

Pastor Mary Lou Plummer

HYMN OF THE DAY *“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”*

Verse 1

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:**

Verse 2

**Under shadow of your throne
Your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient in your arm alone,
And our defense is sure.**

Verse 3

**Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same**

Verse 6

**O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home.**

APOSTLES CREED

P Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.** *(please share Christ's peace with one another)*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “*We Give Thee but Thine Own*”

HYMN 686

C **We give thee but thine own, whate’er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

RESPONSE TO PRAYERS **P** Hear us O God **C** **your mercy is great**
Sharon (Albert), Linda (Anderson), Tom (Angermeier), Bill & Sue

(Aune), **Cindy (B), John (B), Mike & Rina (Clumpner), Elaine (Caelwaerts), Dan (Fenrich), Pam (Freiberg), Alan (G), Pastor Hankermeyer, Betty (J), Charlotte (K), Patricia (Kehl), Cindy (Knapp), Keith (Knapp), Don (L), Kenny (Meyer), Beth (Pachniak), Monika (Perry), Kristin (Reinert), Matthew (Rocque), Delores (Schuyler), Irene (Thorson), Debby & Arnie (Zahn), Brenna, Brixanna, Marley, Marissa, Carole, Russ, Christina, Gretchen, Joanne, Katlyn, Sophia, and the family of Dorothy Walker.**

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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**

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C Amen.

TABLE BLESSING

P Let us pray together the table blessing.

C **Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Jesus Loves Me!”

Verse 1

**Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so**

**Little ones to him belong,
They are weak, but he is strong.**

Chorus

**Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

Verse 2

**Jesus loves me! he who died
Heaven's gates to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let his little child come in. chorus**

Verse 3

**Jesus loves me! he will stay
Close beside me all the way;
When at last I come to die,
He will take me home on high. chorus**

SENDING FORTH

P Although we may be a little church...

C ...we will carry God's big heart into the world. AMEN!

POSTLUDE

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Serving in worship today (Sept 13)

Presiding minister: Pastor Mary Lou

Plummer

Liturgist: Jim Hanstad

Reader: Jim Vogel

Ushers: Jim & Marla Vogel

Keyboard: Heidi Hintz

Serving in worship next week (Sept 20th)

Presiding minister: Pastor David Raben

Reader: Cheryl Larson

Ushers: Dean & Cheryl Larson

Keyboard: Janet Anderson

Readings for next week (Sept 20th)

Jonah 3:10—4:11

God's concern for the city of Nineveh

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Standing firm in the gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the vineyard workers

All things came into being through the Word