

# Contemporary Worship

September 17, 2023

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 24

## GATHERING MUSIC

*Mighty to Save – Fielding/Morgan*

*Everyone needs compassion, love that's never failing  
Let mercy fall on me. Everyone needs forgiveness,  
The kindness of a savior. The hope of nations.*

*Savior, He can move the mountains. My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save.  
Forever, author of salvation. He rose and conquered the grave,  
Jesus conquered the grave.*

*So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures. Fill my life again. I give my life to follow.  
Everything I believe in, now I surrender.*

*Shine your light and let the whole world see.  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King, Jesus.  
Shine your light and let the whole world see.  
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.*

## WELCOME

## OPENING PRAYER \*

*A \* in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

## SONG \*

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glo - ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace \*has  
World without end, with-out end, A-men. World without end, with - out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free. As it  
end, A - men. World with-out end, with - out end, A - men.

was in the be-gin - ning, is now and ev-er shall be, A - men.

## **GOSPEL LESSON \***

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.*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

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

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church 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, his 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."

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.


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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**

## SONG \*

God is Forgiveness



God is for - give - ness. Dare to for - give and God will be with you.  
Polish: *Bóg jest mi - łość - cią miej - cie od - wa - gę żyć dla mi - łość - ci.*  
Spanish: *Dios es ter - nu - ra. Dios vi - ve en ti; a - tré - ve - te a a - mar.*



God is for - give - ness. Love, and do not fear.  
*Bóg jest mi - łość - cią. Nie lę - kaj - cie się.*  
Dios es ter - nu - ra. No hay por - qué te - mer.

Text: Taizé Community  
Tune: Taizé Community  
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## PRAYERS \*

*The assembly responds to each petition ending in "Merciful God,"*

**Assembly: receive our prayer.**

*The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ."*

**Assembly: Amen.**

## OFFERING

*All the People Said Amen - Maher/Morgan/Moak*

*As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.*

*Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code can be used to give our tithes and offering.*



*You are not alone, if you are lonely.  
When you feel afraid, you're not the only.  
We are all the same, in need of mercy, to be forgiven and be free.  
It's all you got to lean on, but thank God, it's all you need.*

*And all the people said, "Amen."  
And all the people said, "Amen."  
Give thanks to the Lord, for His love never ends.  
And all the people said, "Amen."*

*If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter.  
Weak or strong, you know love is what we're after.  
We all are broken, but we're all in this together.  
God knows we stumble and we fall,  
And he so loved the world, He sent His Son to save us all.*

## **CONFESSION \***

Leader: Loving God,

**Assembly: we confess that we struggle to forgive,  
and we struggle to create space for forgiveness to happen.**

**We expect others to pardon our faults  
without also attending to our own need to repent.**

**We demand forgiveness from others  
instead of recognizing forgiveness as a gift we give to one another  
and that we receive from you.**

**We wield forgiveness as a weapon  
instead of a bridge that brings us back together.**

**Forgive us, we pray,  
and free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another,  
to set and respect boundaries with one another,  
and to receive from you the love and wisdom we need  
to grow as the community of Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS \***

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION \***

## **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.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.*

*We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.*

*You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.*

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available  
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets  
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of  
the cups and packaging after the service.*

*Paper bags for the disposal of cups and packaging are available on the communion rail.*

*"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.*

Communion Server:    The body of Christ, given for you.  
                                  The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

## **Come to the Table**

Verse 1:    Come to the table of mercy,  
              Prepared with the wine and the bread.  
              All who are hungry and thirsty,  
              Come, and your souls will be fed.  
              Come at the Lord's invitation;  
              Receive from his nail-scarred hand.  
              Eat of the bread of salvation;  
              Drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Verse 2: We come to the table of mercy,  
We come with our hearts open wide.  
Seeking forgiveness, we're thirsty,  
Cleanse our hearts from inside.  
Forgive us and renew us,  
For all that we've left undone.  
Equip us to serve your people  
And share of your love in the world.

*Words: Claire Cloninger & Laura Smith Music: Martin J. Nystrom  
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## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **BLESSING \***

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**Assembly: Amen.**

## **SONG \***

*As We Go*

As we go, may Your Spirit go before us.  
As we go, may we follow where You lead.  
May we live what we have learned,  
Share the message we have heard,  
And be a light unto the world as we go.

*Words & Music Jeremy Johnson - Arr. David Shipps  
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## **DISMISSAL \***

Pastor: Go in peace.  
Serve the Lord with love and forgiveness in your hearts.

**Assembly: Thanks be to God.**

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**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:**

Pastor Tim Iseringhausen, Lead Pastor  
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family  
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music - Praise Team

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**FLOWER DEDICATION:**

*The altar flowers are given in memory of her parents, Robert and Virginia Morrison,  
by Donna Morrison and Ben.*

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