



A Church That Is Quick to Forgive

September 17/18, 2023

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing, or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the restrooms should you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment. In addition, activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table and small bags with quiet activity items are located just outside the chapel doors.

SERIES THEME: THE CHURCH GOD WANTS

"I want a church that..." How would you complete that statement? Would you focus on size—big or small? Would you think more about style—formal versus laid back? Is it certain desired church programs that come to mind? What exactly do you want in a church?

In this worship series, we see that a better question is: what does God want in a church? Let us think about the church God wants. What does it look like? What are its priorities? What does it all do?

TODAY'S THEME: A CHURCH THAT IS QUICK TO FORGIVE

"Pay it forward." That phrase means that when someone does something for you, instead of paying that person back directly, you pass along kindness to another person instead. Doing something kind for someone else is a way of thanking the person who originally did something kind for you.

Today God applies that concept to forgiveness. God forgave our countless sins. He was willing to pay an incomprehensible price—the death of his Son. And when we are quick to forgive, it is one way we thank God for being so quick to forgive us. This is what God wants in his Church—people who, like him, are quick to forgive.

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS EXPLAINING HOLY COMMUNION AT ETERNAL LOVE

Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We welcome congregational members and those in fellowship with our national church body to receive the sacrament with us today. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe or about holy communion, please speak with one of our pastors.

STAND

OPENING HYMN

Father Welcomes



Fa - ther wel - comes all his chil - dren to his fam - 'ly through his Son.



Fa - ther giv - ing his sal - va - tion, life for - ev - er has been won.



- 1 Lit - tle chil - dren, come to me, for my king - dom is of these.
- 2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, in his prom - ise, be as - sured:
- 3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; let us dai - ly rise with him,

Refrain



Life and love I have to give, mer - cy for your sin.
those who are bap - tized and be - lieve shall be born a - gain.
walk in the love of Christ our Lord, live in the peace of God.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BE SEATED

RESPONSIVE CONFESSION OF SINS

based on today's readings from the Bible

Though our Father welcomes all his children to his family through his Son, we often tire of welcoming others to God's family or restoring them by forgiving them. Our hearts can become clouded with sinful motives and expiring mercy. With Peter, we might think:

“Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

“Up to seventy-seven times.” Jesus answers.

There is no limit to God's forgiveness. There ought to be no limit to ours.

Lord, we confess our sins against you and others: limited forgiveness, holding grudges or others to a double standard, bitterness, anger, quarreling, or slander.

Be patient with me, Father. Do not cast me away from your presence in my unrepayable debt. Forgive me through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Substitute and Savior.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus Christ loved you and gave himself up for you as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. The sign of the cross reminds you: in Christ, God has forgiven you all your sins.

The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses me from all sin. Jesus Christ, the Righteous One—he is the atoning sacrifice for my sins, and not only for mine but also for the whole world.

(1 John 1:7; 2:1-2)

RESPONSE TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive

This congregational song is accompanied by guitar.



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"
2 How can your par - don reach and bless
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



you taught us, Lord, to pray, but you a - lone can
the un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
the truth we dim - ly knew: how small are oth - ers'
and bid re - sent - ment cease; then, bound to all in



grant us grace to live the words we say.
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
debts to us, how great our debt to you!
bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE FORGIVEN

In Genesis chapter 50, Joseph's brothers appealed to their Father's wishes as they asked Joseph to forgive them.

Then Joseph forgave them, reassured them, and spoke kindly to them.

We too appeal to the gracious heart of our heavenly Father. He has mercifully forgiven us. He calls us mercifully to forgive others, reassuring them and speaking kindly to them.

We are, in Christ, exactly who the Father has made us to be: a church that is kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave us.

(Ephesians 4:32)

THE WORD

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

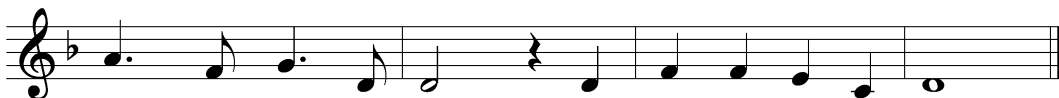
PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 103C – Bless the LORD, My Soul

The cantor(s) will introduce the refrain and sing the verses. The congregation is invited to join in the second refrain, the refrain during verse 3 (while the cantor sings the verse), and the final refrain.



Bless the LORD, my soul, and bless his ho - ly name.



Bless the LORD, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Cantor: Refrain

All: Refrain

*Cantor (verse 1): It is God who forgives all your guilt,
who heals ev'ry one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.*

*Cantors (verse 2 with refrain): The LORD is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
God does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.*

Congregation: Refrain (*while the cantor sings verse 3*):

*As a father has compassion on his children,
the LORD has pity on those who fear him;
for God knows of what we are made,
and remembers that we are dust.*

All: Refrain

The first reading chosen for today will be read as part of the sermon.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

God's Church is people who, in Christ, are kind, compassionate, forgiving, and loving.

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³²Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

^{5:1} Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

STAND

Forgiving others comes from treasuring how much God has forgiven us.

²¹Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶“Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸“But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹“So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹“When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³²“Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

³⁵“This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

BE SEATED

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Young children may come forward for a brief devotion.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Love in Christ Is Strong and Living



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, bind - ing faith - ful
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, clothed in Christ's hu -
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, faint - ing not when



hearts in one; love in Christ is true and giv - ing,
mil - i - ty, gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,
ills at - tend; love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



may his will in us be done.
reach - ing out in char - i - ty.
shall en - dure un - til life's end.

SERMON

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." ' Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

Forgivenessentials

STAND

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer

With explanation from Martin Luther's Small Catechism

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins or because of them deny our prayers; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we ask, neither have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.

So we too will forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

OFFERING SONG

His Mercy Is More

By Matt Boswell & Matt Papa

STAND

LORD'S PRAYER

I invite you to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me the Lord's Prayer as Christ our Lord taught us.

First, we pray that God our Father in heaven would look with mercy on all his children on earth. We ask him to give us grace that we might proclaim his Word faithfully and live our

lives according to his will, for then we show that his name is precious to us. We also pray that he would keep us from any teaching and living which would dishonor his name.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

We pray that his kingdom and the rule of his grace might come to us and grow in us each day; that all who are still captives in Satan's kingdom might be brought to know Jesus Christ, his Son, so that the Christian Church might grow and prosper.

Your kingdom come.

We pray that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us to do and accept God's will in life and death, in good times and in bad, and that we might have power to put down our own sinful will and its desires.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

We pray that our Father would also give us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish desires, and help us to trust that he will provide for all our needs.

Give us today our daily bread.

We ask that God would forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may rest and rejoice in a good conscience before him, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

We pray that God would protect us from all temptations and help us by his Spirit to put down our sinful flesh, to despise the world and its vices, and to overcome the devil and all his trickery.

Lead us not into temptation.

And finally, we pray that God would deliver us from all evils of body and soul now and forever.

But deliver us from evil.

All those who sincerely desire these things will say from their hearts "Amen," trusting without doubt that their prayers are answered in heaven, as Christ has promised: "Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

For our guests: Eternal Love Lutheran Church practices close communion. We welcome congregational members and those in fellowship with our national church body to receive the sacrament with us today. If you are interested in learning more about what we believe or about holy communion, please speak with one of our pastors.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can-celled



cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will



took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

BE SEATED

Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of your Lord,
 2 Christ our Re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal Son,
 3 Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin - cere
 4 With heav'n - ly bread he makes the hun - gry whole,



and drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured.
 has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.
 and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.
 gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.



Saved by his bod - y and his ho - ly blood,
 He gave his life for great - est and for least,
 Christ, who in this life all the saints de - fends,
 Lord of the na - tions, to whom all must bow,



with souls re - freshed we give our thanks to God.
 him - self the of - f'ring and him - self the priest.
 gives all be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.
 in this great feast of love be with us now.

I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, the spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus, all full - ness dwells in him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, this wea - ry soul of mine;
4 I long to be like Je - sus, meek, lov - ing, low - ly, mild;



he bears them all and frees us from the ac - curs - ed load.
he heals all my dis - eas - es, my soul he does re - deem.
his right hand me em - brac - es, I in his arms re - cline.
I long to be like Je - sus, the Fa - ther's ho - ly child.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus to wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, my bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;
I long to be with Je - sus a - mid the heav'n - ly throng,



white in his blood most pre - cious till not a spot re - mains.
he from them all re - leas - es, he all my sor - rows shares.
like fra - grance on the breez - es his name a - broad is poured.
to sing with saints his prais - es, to learn the an - gels' song.

STAND

PRAYER

Song of Simeon *(spoken)*

Luke 2:29-32

In peace, Lord, you let your servant now depart according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for every people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel. Amen.

BLESSING

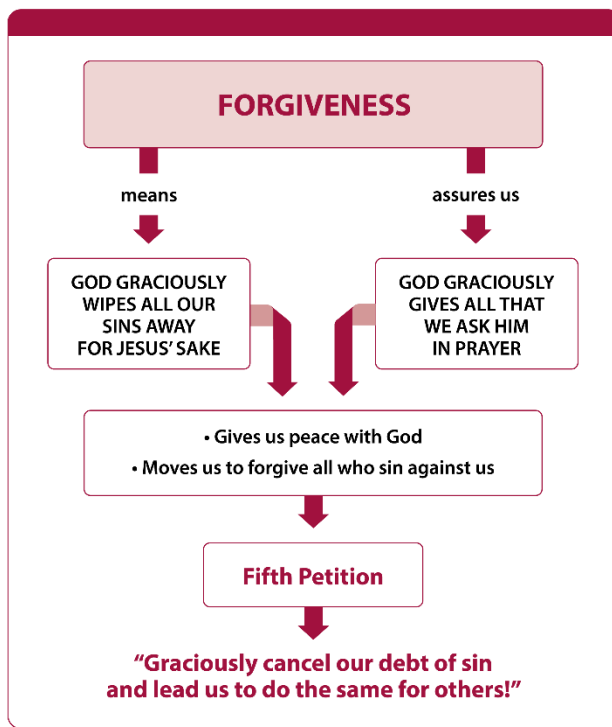
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

Amen.

BE SEATED



©2017 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus, (Pastor Tim Wagner, Monday - 6:30 pm)
Scripture Reader: Bruce Heckmann (10:45am)
Musicians: Tod Frenz, John Gomoll, Jim Hildeman, Bethany Kempfert, Claire Sawall

Father Welcomes (Christian Worship #684)

Text: Robin Mann, b. 1949 Tune: Robin Mann, b. 1949. Text and tune: © 1986 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (Christian Worship #733)

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt. Tune: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt. Text: © 1969 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: Public domain.

Psalm 103C – Bless the LORD, My Soul

Text: Robert Batastini and the Community of Taizé. Text and tune: © 1991, 1998 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

Love in Christ Is Strong and Living (Christian Worship #726)

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, b. 1934 Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932. Text and tune: © 1980 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

Lamb of God (Christian Worship #1031 Agnus [Brit] – ST. CRISPIN)

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: George J. Elvey. Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840 Tune: Public domain.

Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord (Christian Worship #661)

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Latin, 7th cent., abr. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois. Text and tune: Public domain.

I Lay My Sins on Jesus (Christian Worship #798)

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt. Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-76. Text and tune: Public domain.

Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version®, EHV®, © 2019 Wartburg Project, Inc. and The New International Version®, NIV® copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® All rights reserved.

Some Service Components from *Setting Three of Christian Worship*

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

CONTACT US

Dave Pries, Pastor
920.285.1068
Pastor.Pries@eternal-love.org

Kara Krull, Wee Love Director & Teacher
920.858.3933
Kara.Krull@eternal-love.org

Dave Backus, Pastor
920.716.7987
Pastor.Backus@eternal-love.org

Rebecca Fleming, Office Manager
920.749.9744
Office.Manager@eternal-love.org