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**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

“Peter came up and said to [Jesus], ‘Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.’” *Matthew 18:21-22*

**AS WE GATHER**

This weekend on the Church calendar, the bishop Cyprian of Carthage is remembered. As a Church leader in the third century, a time of Roman persecution, Cyprian had to deal with the problem of Christians who denied the faith under persecution but later wanted to be restored to the fellowship of the Lord. Cyprian helped craft a response to the situation that was based on forgiveness, allowing a lapsed Christian to be reinstated after a time in which they lived out their restored faithful confession. His own faithfulness unto death was fully demonstrated as he was executed by Roman authorities for his Christian beliefs in AD 258. Speaking words of forgiveness and living them out can come with a price—but is Christlike in every way!

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Three, pg. 184-185)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”* (*LSB* 915)

**PSALM 103:1-12** (w/ Gloria Patri, *LSB*, pg. 186)

**KYRIE** (*LSB*, pg. 186)

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** (*LSB*, pg. 187-189)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 189)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Genesis 50:15-21 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** Romans 14:1-12 *(bulletin insert)*

**ALLELUIA** (*LSB*, pg. 190)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 18:21-35 *(bulletin insert)*

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 191)

**HYMN** *“’Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive’”* (*LSB* 843)

**SERMON *“How to Forgive”***

**OFFERTORY** (*LSB*, pg. 192-193)

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However, if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 194-198)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“When Peace, like a River”* (*LSB* 763)

*“O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”* (*LSB* 632)

**NUNC DIMITTIS** (*LSB*, pg. 199-200)

**THANKSGIVING** (*LSB*, pg. 200-201)

### SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS (LSB, pg. 201-202)

**BENEDICTION** (*LSB*, pg. 202)

**HYMN** *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”* (*LSB* 918)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**