

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 17th, 2023

9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship



Atonement Lutheran Church

Invite • Prepare • Go into the World

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen

-E. Böhm

***WELCOME**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, and the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

**Please Stand As You Are Able*

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

***GATHERING HYMN** *O Christ, Our Hope*

604

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God,
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.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WORD

GENESIS 50:15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING *Romans 14:1-12*

A reading from the book of Romans

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants 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.

⁵Some 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. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

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

¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written,

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

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter 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?" ²²Jesus 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. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *I Come With Joy*

482

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the Church, with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. Merciful God; **hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us* -W. Roberts

*Offering gifts are gratefully received
in the plates located near the sanctuary doors as you exit.*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

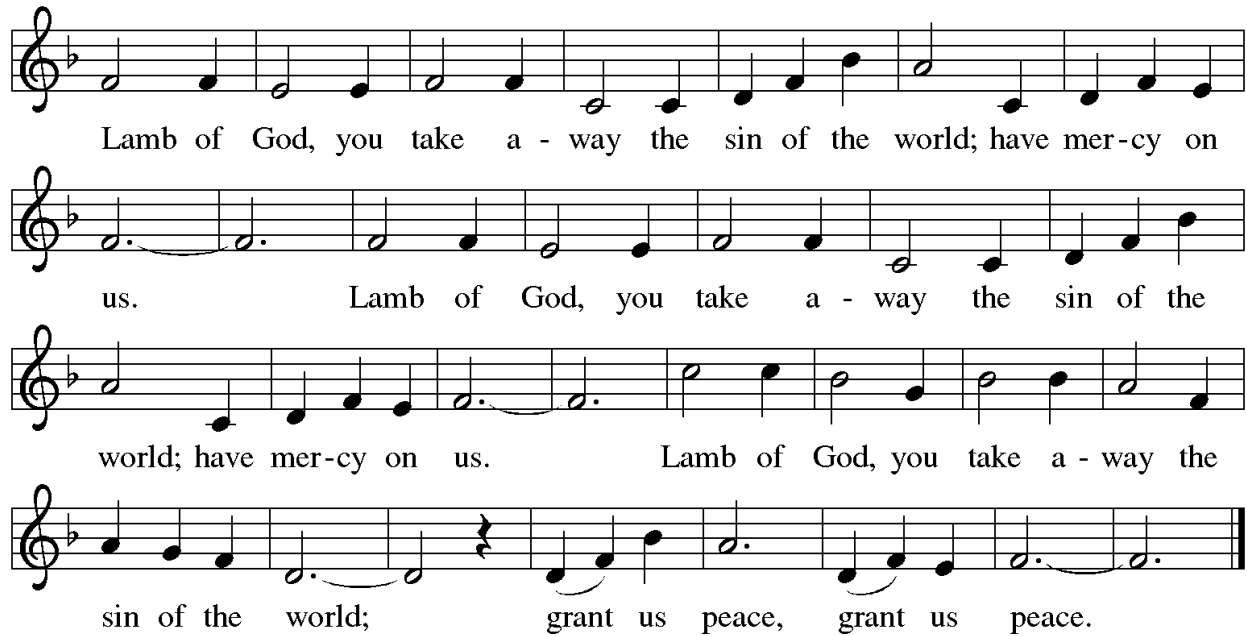
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

All are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.

~Come forward by the center aisle.

~Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.

~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.

~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.

~Please tell an usher if you need communion elements brought to your pew.



SENDING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our
hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who
lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Go, My Children

543

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Make Me a Channel Of Your Peace

-S. Temple

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister	Kathy Wilkinson
Livestream Recorder....	Dave Irish
Counters	John Kruidenier, Jim Krapf
Usher	Tom Thompson
Altar Care	Judy Lazenby
Fellowship Host	McGill Family

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT FORUM/COFFEE HOUR **TODAY at 10:30 a.m. in Reissig Hall**

Please join us in Reissig Hall following worship for coffee, tea, treats, and lively discussion. If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers - or if you would like to present a topic - please contact Margy Peet or Susan Touhsaent.

Sept. 17 *Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur*

Joel Elliott

Joel will tell us about these Jewish holidays on, fittingly, the Day of Atonement.

RIT CAMPUS MINISTRY MEAL **TODAY at 6:00 p.m. at RIT**

Each Sunday evening during the school year, students at Rochester Institute of Technology gather for worship followed by a home-cooked meal provided by local congregations. Students also share in fellowship and discussion with Pastor Craig Swanson, Lutheran Campus Pastor at RIT.

Items Still Needed:

~(1) One Egg Casserole 9x13 with bacon (No onion/peppers/garlic)

*If you are donating a food item, it should be dropped off to the church kitchen by 6:00 p.m. *TODAY*. If you would like to carpool, or need directions to get to our site, please contact Pastor Gail.*

BOARD OF MINISTRIES MEETING

The Board of Ministries will be meeting in person on ***Tuesday, September 19th*** at ***6:00 p.m.*** in ***Reissig Hall.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHICKEN BBQ *Saturday, September 23rd from 4:30 p.m. until sold out*

You can skip cooking dinner! Come to our easy, drive-through Chicken Barbecue (on our beautiful, newly sealed & painted parking lot!) and get a full, delicious meal of chicken, salt potatoes, bbq beans, and a cookie for just \$15. All proceeds will benefit the Brighton Habitat Coalition of Churches.

*Jean Seager will be available *TODAY* to take pre-orders.*

CONFIRMATION FAMILIES: SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, October 1st at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library

Mark your calendars for a Confirmation student and parent meeting on October 1st following worship in the *Church Library*. Join us for a conversation about our upcoming Confirmation program for youth in grades 6 and 7.

GREEN TIP

Bottled water is not healthier or safer than tap water, because it is not regulated as strictly. Bottled water costs a lot more than tap water, requires 47 million gallons of oil per year to produce, and makes 1.5 million tons of plastic waste each year. Multinational bottled water corporations purchase groundwater and distribution rights to commoditize a basic human right: the access to safe and affordable water. Instead, use a stainless steel thermos or, if you don't like your tap water's taste, use a water filter.

O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Atonement Lutheran Church

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

Email: pastorgails@aol.com

Office: (585) 442-1018

Cell : (614) 477-7863

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry

Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

Welcome to worship,

and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation

or learning more about our ministries,

please speak to our Pastor.



MISSION STATEMENT

Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:

Invite all people into the presence of the living God,

Prepare for ministry in daily life and

Go into the world as disciples

Our Church Nursery is available
for parents to use with their children.

Thank you for joining us in worship today!

*"How many times shall I forgive...those who sin against me?
Jesus answered "...not seven times, but seventy times seven."*

-Matthew 18:21-22



Visit our web site at: **www.atonementrochester.org**
Follow us on Facebook: **fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/**
Contact us via Email: **office@atonementrochester.org**
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Office hours: **9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tues~Wed~Thurs**