



**SERVICE ORDER**  
**Sunday, 17 September**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**Lord, let your loving kindness  
always go before us and follow us,  
and lead us continually to do good.  
We ask this through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCE: ROMANS 14:10**

*So why do you judge your brothers or sisters in Christ?  
And why do you think you are better than they are?  
We will all stand before God to be judged.*

**So why do you judge your brothers or sisters in Christ?  
And why do you think you are better than they are?  
We will all stand before God to be judged.**

**INVOCATION**

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

## IN YOU IS GLADNESS – LHS 386

In You is gladness in all our sadness,  
Jesus, joy of every heart;  
by You are given blessings from heaven,  
true Redeemer, our delight.  
Our sins You've taken, our bonds You've broken;  
trusting You surely, we build securely,  
we stand for ever. Hallelujah!  
Our hearts are turning to You with yearning,  
on You relying, living or dying,  
we're Yours for ever. Hallelujah!

In You is calmness; nothing can harm us:  
world, or death, or Satan's plans.  
In our distresses You see and bless us;  
You have all things in Your hands.  
Our heart rejoices, we lift our voices,  
singing Your glory, telling Your story  
now and for ever. Hallelujah!  
With adoration, in celebration,  
we love and praise You, eagerly raise You  
glad hymns for ever. Hallelujah!

Johann Lindemann 1549-1631  
Tr H F W Proeve (1973) and D A Schubert (1991)  
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## CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,  
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,  
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your  
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the  
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be  
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to  
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He  
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.  
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. **Amen.***

## PSALM 114

<sup>1</sup> *When Israel came out of Egypt,*  
**Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,**

<sup>2</sup> *Judah became God's sanctuary,*  
**Israel his dominion.**

*Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,*  
**at the presence of the God of Jacob.**

<sup>3</sup> *The sea looked and fled,*  
**the Jordan turned back;**

<sup>4</sup> *the mountains leaped like rams,*  
**the hills like lambs.**

*Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,*  
**at the presence of the God of Jacob.**

<sup>5</sup> *Why was it, sea, that you fled?*  
**Why, Jordan, did you turn back?**

<sup>6</sup> *Why, mountains, did you leap like rams,*  
**you hills, like lambs?**

*Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,*  
**at the presence of the God of Jacob.**

<sup>7</sup> *Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord,*  
**at the presence of the God of Jacob,**

<sup>8</sup> *who turned the rock into a pool,*  
**the hard rock into springs of water.**

*Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,*  
**at the presence of the God of Jacob.**

**Glory to the Father and the Son  
and the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever.**

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray that we forgive one another.*

**Thank you, God,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that you have had mercy on us  
and have forgiven us through your Son.  
Make us more like him,  
so that we too  
forgive one another from the heart.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

### **BIBLE READING**

**FIRST READING: Exodus 14:19-31** The crossing of the Red Sea

<sup>19</sup>Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, <sup>20</sup>coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other; so neither went near the other all night long. <sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup>and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. <sup>24</sup>During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. <sup>25</sup>He jammed<sup>[a]</sup> the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, 'Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.' <sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen.' <sup>27</sup>Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing towards<sup>[b]</sup> it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen – the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. <sup>30</sup>That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. <sup>31</sup>And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of

the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

*After the reading*

*This is the Word of the LORD.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12** The strong and the weak faith

**14** Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarrelling over disputable matters. <sup>2</sup>One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. <sup>6</sup>Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. <sup>9</sup>For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister?<sup>[a]</sup> Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. <sup>11</sup>It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

*After the reading*

*This is the Word of the LORD.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA VERSE**

*Alleluia!*

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*(Jesus said:) Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **Alleluia!***

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35** Parable of the unforgiving servant

*Before the reading*

**Glory be to You, O LORD.**

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ <sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>23</sup>‘Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold<sup>[b]</sup> was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. <sup>26</sup>‘At this the servant fell on his knees before him. “Be patient with me,” he begged, “and I will pay back everything.” <sup>27</sup>The servant’s master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. <sup>28</sup>‘But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins.<sup>[c]</sup> He grabbed him and began to choke him. “Pay back what you owe me!” he demanded. <sup>29</sup>‘His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, “Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.” <sup>30</sup>‘But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup>‘Then the master called the servant in. “You wicked servant,” he said, “I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?” <sup>34</sup>In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. <sup>35</sup>‘This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

*After the reading*

*This is the gospel of the LORD.*

**Praise be to You, O Christ.**

**Thank you, Lord Jesus,  
that God forgives us for your sake.  
Help us to forgive one another. Amen.**

**BECAUSE WE BEAR YOUR NAME – AT 292**

**Lord Jesus, we belong to You,  
You live in us, we live in You;  
we live and work for You –  
because we bear Your name.**

**Help us receive each other, Lord,  
for You receive the least of us  
and come to us in them –  
because we bear Your name.**

**Bless those who give us any gift,  
because they know that we are Yours;  
reward them with Your grace –  
because we bear Your name.**

**Let us acknowledge those as friends  
who use Your name to right a wrong,  
but have not joined us yet –  
because we bear Your name.**

**Let nothing that we do or say  
offend the weak so that they fall  
and lose their faith in You –  
because we bear Your name.**

**Keep us from missing out on life;  
give hands that help, and single sight,  
and feet that walk Your way –  
because we bear Your name.**

**You are the salt that cleanses us,  
so clean us out, and make us fit  
for common life with You –  
because we bear Your name.**

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### **SERMON**

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.  
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))  
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,  
from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**SEEK, O SEEK THE LORD— LH 859**

**Seek, O seek the Lord, while he is near;  
trust him, speak to him in prayer,  
and he will hear.**

**God be with us in our lives,  
direct us in our calling;  
break the snares the world contrives,  
keep us from falling.**

**Seek, O seek the Lord, while he is near;  
trust him, speak to him in prayer,  
and he will hear.**

**God, increase in us the life  
that Christ by dying gave us:  
though we faint in mortal strife  
his blood will save us.**

**Seek, O seek the Lord, while he is near;  
trust him, speak to him in prayer,  
and he will hear.**

**Strengthen in our hearts the love  
we owe to one another;  
how can we love God above  
and not our brother?**

**James Phillip McAuley**



## OFFERING PRAYER

**Thank you, Lord, for your great mercy  
in continuing to forgive us.  
Help us likewise to show mercy to our brothers and sisters  
and forgive them when they wrong us.  
Strengthen our faith and our love,  
and lead us to live in gratitude for all you have done for us,  
serving you and other people.  
Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Since God our Father has compassion on us, let us pray that his mercy may flow through his church and into the whole of his creation.*

Almighty God, heavenly Father: In your mercy you have forgiven us the debt of our sin. Help us to forgive each other in our homes, our families and congregation. Especially help those who have suffered at the hands of others to overcome their pain, to forgive, and to receive healing.

*Lord in your mercy:*   **hear our prayer.**

You have given to your church the keys of the kingdom of heaven: Help your church throughout the world to rightly preach law and gospel, to retain the sins of the unrepentant and forgive those who repent and believe.

*Lord in your mercy:*   **hear our prayer.**

Bless the nations of the world. Move the wealthy nations to do justice by canceling the debts of poorer countries where possible. Be with our country. Guide our Prime Minister and all politicians as they govern our nation.

*Lord in your mercy:*   **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the laws of our land which provide safety and order. Bless our justice system and all who work in it, that people may receive their rights and be encouraged to fulfill their responsibilities.

*Lord in your mercy:*   **hear our prayer.**

Be with those who are sick or receiving medical treatment. Guide the hands of the doctors and nurses and other health professionals who care for them, and grant them healing if it is your will.

*Lord in your mercy:*   **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for our material blessings. Help us to be good stewards and to give generously towards the work of the church.

*Lord in your mercy:*   **hear our prayer.**

Lord, you have compassion on us as a father has compassion on his children. Hear our prayer, and satisfy our needs, and the needs of all for whom we pray. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

*Let us bless the LORD.*

**God be praised forevermore.**

*The LORD bless us and keep us.*

*The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.*

*The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.*

**Amen!**

### **GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING**

*May the Lord forgive you all your sins and help you to forgive others.*

**May the Lord forgive you all your sins and help you to forgive others.**

## WORDS OF SENDING

*Go in peace,  
forgiving one another as the Lord has forgiven you.  
In the name of Christ. Amen.*

### LEAD US, HEAVENLY FATHER – LH 397

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us  
For we have no help but Thee;  
Yet possessing  
Every blessing  
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us  
All our weakness Thou dost know;  
Thou didst tread this earth before us  
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
Lone and dreary,  
Faint and weary,  
Through the desert Thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
Love, all other love transcending,  
Pleasure that can never cloy:  
Thus provided,  
Pardoned, guided,  
Nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston  
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## HYMNS AND SONGS

### **First reading (a) : Exodus 14:19-31**

#### **LHS**

397 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us\* G4

#### **AT**

201 Wade in the water

502 Patiently waiting for you

### **Second reading: Romans 14:1-12**

#### **LHS**

24 All my heart this night rejoices (esp vv 2,3,6) G7

101 Jesus lives! Thy terrors now\* G5

277 Baptized into Thy name most holy (esp vv 1,6)\* G5

357 O God, Thou faithful God\* G3

361 Let us ever walk with Jesus\* G5

381 O God our Father, throned on high (*alt tune* 391, G9)

386 In Thee is gladness\* G7

782 At the name of Jesus G7

862 As we step from the edge of morning GS

#### **AT**

26 He is Lord

101 Jesus, please watch over us

292 Because we bear your name

364 In you is gladness

### **Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

#### **LHS**

61 Alas! And did my Saviour bleed

305 Today Thy mercy calls us\* G3

317 Jesus sinners doth receive\* G5

803 Peace with the Father G7

#### **AT**

31 Freely, freely

300 Practise love

354 Change my heart, O God

439 Forgiven