



**TRUCKEE LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost – September 17, 2023**

*We invite you to participate in worship, reading the parts in bold print. ♪ means All Sing!*

*\* We invite you to stand, as you are able, for sections marked with an asterisk.*

**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP – “Bach Chorale”**

Dr. Heidi Kuzma and The Bach Band

**WELCOME**

Pastor Toby Nelson

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**\* OPENING PRAYER**

**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.**

**\* ♪ GATHERING SONG – “Jesus is Holding Sway!”**

Congregation

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

***Time for silence and reflection***

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

**\* SHARING OF THE LORD’S PEACE**

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.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ in a way that you feel most comfortable, saying “The peace of Christ be with you.”*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Lord, open our hearts and minds that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

**FIRST READING****Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those 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. Who 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.

Some 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. Those 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.

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

Why 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. For it is written,

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\* ♪ PREPARING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS – “Blessed Assurance”**

Congregation

**\* GOSPEL READING Matthew 18:21-35**

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?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So 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, the Good News of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**MEDITATION – “How to Forgive”**

Pastor Toby Nelson

**♪ SONG IN RESPONSE – “There is a Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

Congregation

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS AND PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\* ♪ SONG OF THANKS – “Give Thanks”**

Congregation

**\* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor Toby Nelson

*Please conclude your prayer with “Lord, in your mercy,” and all will respond, “Hear our prayer.”*

**\* ♪ LORD’S PRAYER**

Cooper Shaffer, Violin and Congregation

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

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

**\* THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\* 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.**

**\* INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**♪ COMMUNION SONG – “Come to the Table of Mercy”**

Congregation

**\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\* ♪ SENDING SONG – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

Congregation

**PREPARING FOR OUR MISSION IN THE WORLD – ANNOUNCEMENTS *Birthdays/Anniversaries***

*We are called to make Christ known by our words and actions - in our church, in our local community, and throughout the world.*

**\* BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\* SENDING**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* POSTLUDE – “Amazing Grace”**

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**We thank Pastor Toby Nelson for leading our worship service today!**

We invite all to join us by giving to the ministry of TLPC. **We thank everyone who generously supports this ministry.** Gifts may be made online through our website at [TLPC.org](http://TLPC.org) or mailed to: **Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church, PO Box 10620, Truckee, CA 96162**

**Our congregation has a heart for missions: locally, nationally, and in God's world.** With your support we give to Sierra Community House (Hunger Relief, Crisis Intervention & Prevention, Family Support & Community Engagement, Mediation & Legal Assistance); North Tahoe–Truckee Homeless Services; Healthy Babies; International Health Partners Tanzania; Hands of Hope Zimbabwe; youth service trips to Nicaragua and Alaska; adult disaster trips locally and around the world; and the responsible, vigorous mission work of the Presbyterian Church USA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in our nation and world. Additionally, during the pandemic, our congregation has supported local essential workers.

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Washoe people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this country their home.

