

*For the week of Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 17<sup>th</sup> through September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023*

### **Notes for the Week — Forgiveness without End, Matthew 18:21-35**

During Midweek Table Talk, we talked about the two greatest doctrines of the Bible: Law and Gospel. It is extremely important to rightly distinguish these two for properly understanding Jesus and what He does for us. The Law is all God commands us to do or not do. The Law also includes its consequences. It promises life to all who keep it but deals death to all who transgress. Death includes the effect of sin on our lives. Living in a fallen world and all that brings is part of the Law. The Gospel, on the other hand, is what God does on our behalf. It promises life to all who believe that God has done it and will do it for us.

But here's the thing: the Gospel only comes through fulfilling the Law. That is why Christ came to stand in our place. We couldn't meet the Law's demands, so Christ was born in our flesh under the Law. He actively fulfilled the Law for us by living perfectly without sin. It was only because of this He could stand for us on the cross where He passively fulfilled the Law by facing the wrath of God against our sin. The Gospel for us meant the Law for Him. On account of His life and death, we were set free from the Law.

But does that mean we are now free to do as we please? Free to satisfy our flesh? Never! We were set free from the Law by love in order to be love. Having been saved by Christ we do not discard the Law but turn to it to see what God would have us do, but instead of doing its good works for my own benefit I know I have all I need in Christ. Therefore, I seek to do good works for the sake of my neighbor out of love. We "take up the Law" to "be the Gospel" for someone else.

Our good works don't merit them forgiveness, but we do reflect Christ to them through our good works. How is this related to our Gospel text today? Consider Peter. He believes he is being very generous, "Hey, Jesus, check out my righteousness! I'll forgive someone seven times!" No, Peter. You still don't get it. If the Father only forgave you seven times, you would still be condemned. If the Father had any limit on His forgives, no matter how 'generous,' you would be lost forever. Not only do you sin, but you have sin clinging to your very flesh. Only death and resurrection can kill your sin and make you holy. And that death is what I am going to undertake.

We, in response to God's limitless love and forgiveness for us turn and pour out that love and forgiveness upon others. Not seven times, Peter, but so many times you give up counting and just keep forgiving. Is it hard? Absolutely. Do we at times feel like it will kill us. Yes. But that's the point. Jesus literally offered up His life that we may be forgiven, and so we seek to be faithful to His love and forgiveness by offering our own lives as instruments of His forgiveness. We "take up the Law" to "be the Gospel" by showing others the depth of God's love for them in Jesus Christ our Lord, even if it kills us. Amen.

### ***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

#### **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

#### **VERSE: MATTHEW 6:14**

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

**PSALM 103:1-12 and/or the appointed daily psalms.**

**Prayer on the Psalm**

*Father of light, we praise You because You forgive iniquity and do not reward us according to our sins. What you promised to the fathers You have fulfilled in Your son. As the east and the west can never come together, so remove our sins far from us, that they can be accounted to us no more, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	1, 2	5, 6	8	10	13, 14, 15	18	20, 21	23, 24
Evening	3, 4	7	9	11, 12	16, 17	19	22	25

**BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

	Bible Narrative for the Week	Second Reading
Sunday	Matt. 18:21-35	
Monday	Aaron and Miriam Speak Against Moses—Numbers 12:1-16	
Tuesday	Spies Are Sent into Canaan—Numbers 13:1-3 (4-16) 17-33	
Wednesday	Israel Refuses to Enter Canaan and Moses Intercedes for Them—Numbers 14:1-24	
Thursday	The Rebels Are Sentenced to Death—Numbers 14:26-45 <b>St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist:</b> Matthew 9:9-13	
Friday	Rebellion Against Moses and Aaron—Numbers 16:1-19a	
Saturday	Isaiah 55:6-9	Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30

**The Catechism: The Ten Commandments — The Ninth and Tenth Commandments**

<p><i>What is the Ninth Commandment?</i>  <b>You shall not covet your neighbor's house.</b></p>	Preschool+
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>                      We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get out neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.</p>	Second Grade+
<p><i>What is the Tenth Commandment?</i>  <b>You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.</b></p>	Preschool+
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>                      We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.</p>	Second Grade+

**DEVOTION OR MEDITATION**

**DAILY PRAYER**

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

**Collect of the Week**

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Our Congregation:** David & Debbie Hunsaker; John Ingram; Joan James; Kevin & Delilah James; Brian & Wendi Janssen, Ethan, Emma.

**Baptismal Birthdays:** Kady White; Hadley Hasty; Laura Williams; Gary Daniel Jr; Bo Kelley; Dennis Kelley; Kari Neiswender; Wilford Sinclair; Randall Skiles; Abigail Roth

**Wedding Anniversaries:** Arlie & Ramona Hildebrandt; David & Tracy White

**Members of the Congregation:**

**Friends of our Congregation:**

**Other:**

**Our Circuit:**

*Faith Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Adam Reichart*

*Messiah Lutheran Church, Emporia; Rev. Eddie Hosch*

**Our District Staff and President, Rev. Justin Panzer.**

*Tami Lierz, Administrative Assistant*

*Jeffrey Maltz, LCEF*

**Our Synod and President, Rev. Matthew Harrison**

**Our Community:** *City of Richmond; City of Princeton; USD 288*

**Our State and Governor, Laura Kelly**

**Our Nation and President, Joseph Biden**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM**

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

—or—

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

**“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”**

**685**

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us  
And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading,  
Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love,  
Let us do the Father’s bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus  
And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
We shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy  
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe;  
Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction,  
Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in  
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die,  
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken.  
Jesus, You are now our head.  
We are Your own living members;  
Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly,  
Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be,  
Life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
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**Looking Forward to “The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost”**

**September 24, 2023**

**Readings: *Isaiah 55:6-9 | Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 | Matthew 20:1-16***

Those who are sent as “laborers for his vineyard” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear “the burden of the day and the scorching heat” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “he may be found” (Is. 55:6), “have compassion” and “abundantly pardon” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “whether by life or by death” (Phil. 1:20), by “fruitful labor” (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “worthy of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27).

