

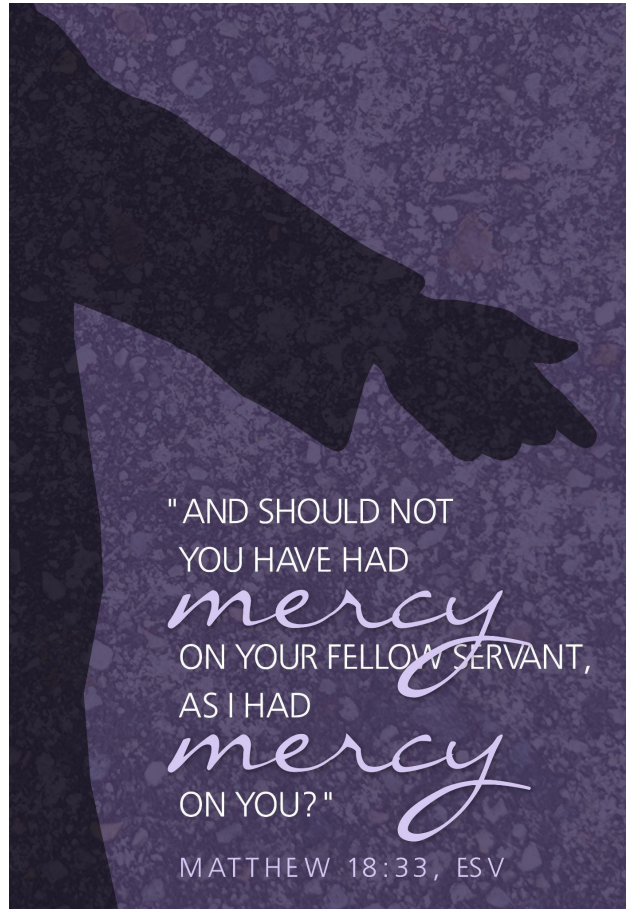
9.13.2026

10:00 am



16th Sunday after Pentecost

*Sharing God's love so that all
are served and supported.*



Today's Worship Theme

In today's second reading, Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

**115 East King Street | Boone, North Carolina | Office 828.264.2206 |
www.graceboone.org | graceboone@gmail.com**



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*Greeter: Dana Holden
Ushers: Roger Bodo and Morgan Wright
Altar Guild: Carolyn Witt
Coffee Host: Charlene Sox*

If you are visiting, please review the Welcome Pew Card in the hymnal holder.

✠ GATHER ✠

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For up-to-date info, see the “Grace Happenings” Thursday e-newsletter and our website’s monthly calendar (also displayed in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall).



PRELUDE

We rise.

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.** Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin as we kneel.

Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

We rise.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please share a sign of Christ’s peace.

GATHERING HYMN

“I Come with Joy”

ELW 482

GREETING

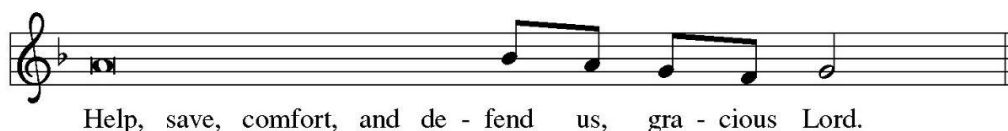
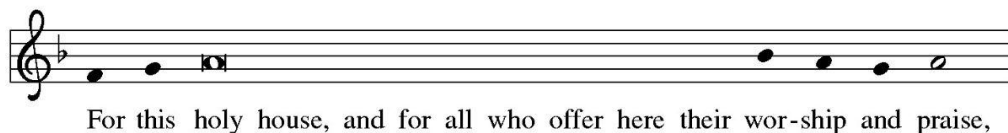
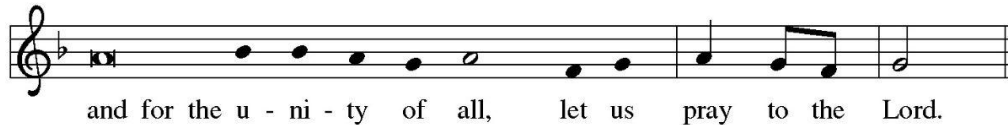
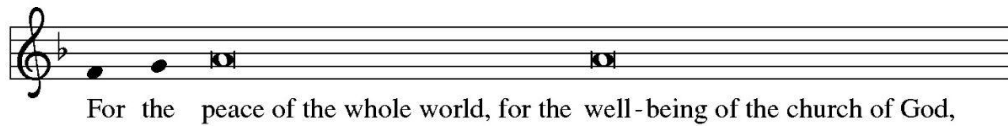
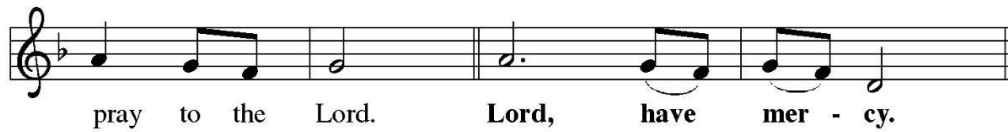
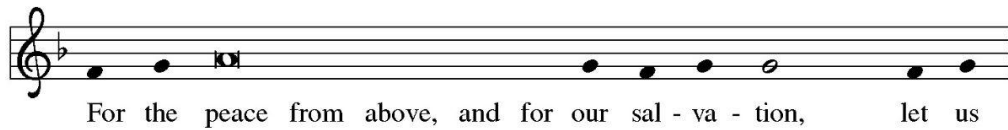
Assisting Minister: Charlie Wallin

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

Let us pray. 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.**

KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may come forward for the Children's Message, then go upstairs for Children's Church & Music, and return for communion.

A READING FROM Genesis 50:15-21

Lector: Judy Michael

Joseph reconciles with his brothers.

¹⁵ Realizing 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.**

PSALM 103:[1-7] 8-13 *Read responsively.*

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

(CONT.)

⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

A READING FROM Romans 14:1-12

Accepting diversity in the community of faith

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

⁵ 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. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

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

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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

We rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 18:21-35

A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith

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

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister 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, the 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.

(CONT.)

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.**

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Troisi

We rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Our Father, We Have Wandered"

ELW 606

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. **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.**

We kneel.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each portion of the prayer ends with these words:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be seated.

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING SONG

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

Robert A. Hobby

*"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray.
But you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
Lord cleanse our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.*

Thank you for partnering with Grace . Visit www.graceboone.org/donate, or place your gift in the Narthex collection box or mail it to 115 E. King St, Boone, NC 28607.



We rise.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

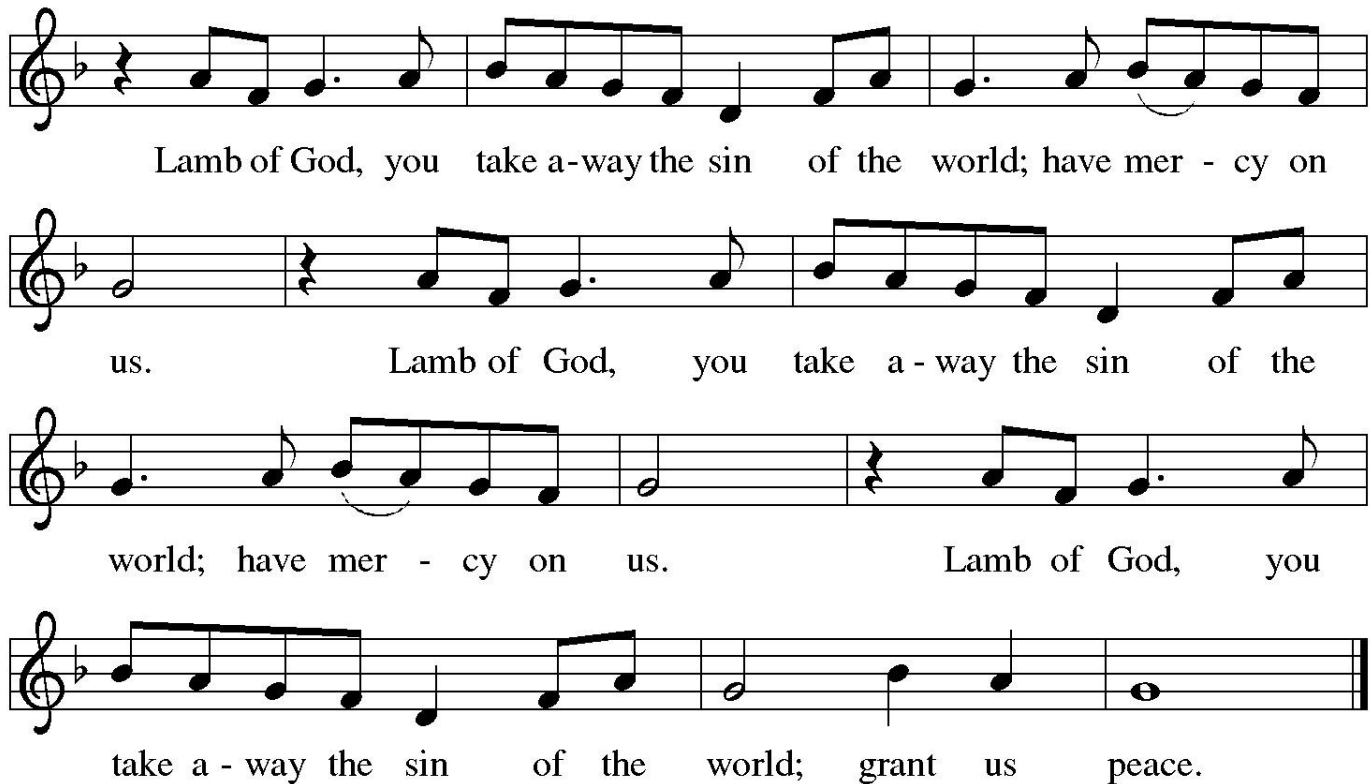
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Communion Assistant: Kristie Evans

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come! **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated. This is the Lord's Table; all who seek Christ's true presence promised through this bread and wine are welcome and invited to partake in communion at the head of the aisle. You'll receive bread first (gluten-, nut-, soy- & dairy-free) and then wine (grape juice is available). Please alert an usher if you require the sacrament to be brought to you. On the first and third Sundays, healing prayers are offered in the Chapel.

COMMUNION SONG



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Goodness Is Stronger than Evil"

ELW 721

"As We Gather at Your Table"

ELW 522

We rise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Go My Children, with My Blessing"

ELW 543

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Are given to the glory of God
and in celebration of all those with
September birthdays
By Charles & Lynne Mauney.

SANCTUARY LAMP

Is burning to the glory of God
and in honor of
Avery Lund's birthday
by Ron & Gail Schuette.

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 20

Jonah 3:10-4:11 | Psalm 145:1-8 | Philippians 1:21-30 | Matthew 20:1-16

GIVING REPORT

Giving September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026

August Giving	August Budgeted Giving	Year to Date Giving	Year to Date Budgeted Giving
\$22,314.00	\$33,333.33	\$357,895.30	\$400,000.00