

Forgiveness is for Me



unexpected
TRUTHS

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WELCOME! Thank you for joining us for worship today. At Redeemer we believe that the gospel message, the good news that Jesus has won for us forgiveness and eternal life, is more than just words. It's the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in our hearts. Our worship focuses on the proclamation of this life-saving message as we respond with our prayers, praise, and thanksgiving. May you be richly blessed as we worship together!

VISITOR CARDS are located in the card rack on the pew in front of you. If you are a guest with us today, please take a moment to fill out a card and hand it to either an usher or pastor or place it in the offering plate or the box in the gathering area.

PARENTS' ROOM If you have a young child or nursing infant and you find yourself in need of stepping out for a moment, a parents' room is located in the rear of the sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY SHEETS as well as a collection of Arch books and doodle pads are available to keep little hands busy during worship. You'll find them on a corner shelf in the gathering area.

RESTROOMS are located in the gathering area. A family restroom is immediately to your right as you exit through the double doors in the rear of the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS can be found in your church bulletin box, in the literature rack on the rear wall of the sanctuary, or in the visitor card slots on the back of each pew.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers in the rear of the sanctuary. If you would like more information about Redeemer, please feel free to speak with one of our pastors or any one of the members after the service. You may also contact us anytime using the information below.

James Borgwardt, Pastor | 920-204-4015
jborgwardt@redeemerfdl.org

Chris Rathje, Pastor | 352-445-8366
crathje@redeemerfdl.org

David P. Lecker, Principal | 989-245-4015
dlecker@redeemerfdl.org

www.redeemerfdl.org

606 Forest Avenue
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Rachel Jahns, Office Manager
920-921-4020
office@redeemerfdl.org

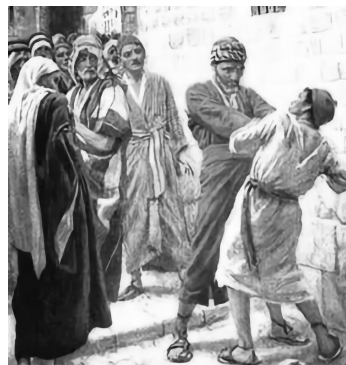
SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

September 13/14, 2026

SERIES THEME: UNEXPECTED TRUTHS

The opening lines of the United States Declaration of Independence boldly assert that certain truths are “self-evident”—truths accessible to human reason and widely recognized by observation of the world. The founders appealed to principles they believed reasonable people could recognize simply by reflecting on human nature and justice. The most important truths, however, those revealed in the Bible, are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

August 16The Church is for All People
August 23The Son of Man is God
August 30Cross Comes Before Crown
September 6I Am My Brother’s Keeper
September 13Forgiveness is for Me
September 20Grace is Amazing



TODAY'S FOCUS: FORGIVENESS IS FOR ME

Forgiveness does not come naturally to human beings. It is expected that humans will defend themselves, lash out when attacked, hold grudges, and bite back. So, when human beings hear that they are forgiven, they may even be suspicious or skeptical. Jesus tells a parable that contrasts the forgiveness of God with our own unforgiving sinful nature. God forgives our huge debt. Who can comprehend such unexpected mercy? Certainly not unmerciful servants, who refuse to forgive small debts. Have mercy on us, Lord, and teach us to forgive like you!

THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN

Oh, How Good It Is | **731**

INVOCATION & OPENING VERSES

Psalm 103:11-13

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

Congregation Amen.

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is the LORD's love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

As dearly loved children of God, let us come before our compassionate Father, confess our sins to him, and confidently seek his forgiveness.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GLORY TO GOD



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on

us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on

earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House.



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

Joseph graciously forgave his brothers, despite the horrible ways they had wronged him.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 86

The cantor introduces the refrain. The congregation repeats the refrain and sings again as indicated. The cantor sings the verses of the psalm.

Refrain



O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O LORD, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. (Refrain)

All the nations shall come to adore you,
and glorify your name, O Lord.
For you are great, and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God. (Refrain)

God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness,
abounding in love and truth.
Turn and take pity on me. (Refrain)

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Lynn Trapp

Text: © 1969 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 717598

Tune: © 1989 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 717598

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Kindness, compassion, and forgiveness are marks of God's Church.

¹ Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ 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.

The ability to forgive others comes from the Spirit enabling us to understand how much God has forgiven us.

²⁶ "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.' ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S LESSON

Children are invited to come forward and gather on the steps in the front of the sanctuary for a lesson with the pastor.

HYMN OF THE DAY

His Mercy Is More | **579**

SERMON

THE FORGIVEN FORGIVE

Genesis 50:15-21

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

THANK OFFERING



*Online gifts may be given by scanning the QR code or at redeemerfdl.org/give.
You may also use the Vanco app: Search first for Fond du Lac, then scroll down to Redeemer. Online givers may place the cards located in the card rack on the back of the pews into the plate.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled, as to console;

to be understood, as to understand;

to be loved, as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying

that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Paid It All | **562**