

**SUNDAY SCRIPT
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

WELCOME AND GREETING

INVOCATION AND PSALM 103

P: We are here to give praise and honor to God for His mighty deeds and His amazing grace. As we worship, we have this time together to give ourselves to God in word, song, and prayer. We celebrate in the name of the Father and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

C: Amen.

P: Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

C: Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits —

P: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

C: who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

P: who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

C: The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

P: He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

C: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

P: He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

P: as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

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

OPENING SONG

“Our God”

**Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You None like You**

**Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You**

**Our God is greater Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer Awesome in Power
Our God, Our God**

**Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You**

**Our God is greater Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer Awesome in Power
Our God, Our God**

**Our God is greater Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer Awesome in Power
Our God, Our God**

**And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against?
What could stand against?**

**Our God is greater Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer Awesome in Power
Our God, Our God**

**And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against?
And if our God is for us Then who could ever stop us?
And if our God is with us Then what could stand against?
What could stand against?**

Song Select # 5677416

Jonas Myrin, Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Matt Redman

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: Let us now, as brothers and sisters in Christ, confess our sins.

C: Merciful and Loving God, You and your disciples were often in the middle of large crowds. Many of them were confused and restless, broken and wounded, and some were filled with curiosity and questions. In the midst of all the people, you demonstrated compassion and love as well as forgiveness and humility.

We confess before you today that much of the time we are just like the people surrounding Jesus. We often hurt each other with our words and actions. We carry wounds and experiences from the past that prevent us from growing in the present. At times, we do not demonstrate love and forgiveness toward one another as Christ displayed to all.

Loving and grace-filled Lord, forgive us and renew our commitment to you—that we will not put limitations on love and forgiveness. Give us the strength to make changes in our lives so that we will live in conformity to your will and display Christlikeness among the people in our lives.

A moment of Self-reflection and Silent Confession

P: Jesus Christ died on the cross for the sins of all. Christ, through his commands to his disciples spoken in last week's Gospel; "whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Through his words, as a called and ordained servant of His Word; your sins are washed away in the waters of baptism and removed through the blood of Jesus Christ. We give thanks to the God who restores us and renews us daily.

C: Amen!

SONG

"Do It Again"

**Walking around these walls I thought by now they'd fall
But you have never failed me yet
Waiting for change to come knowing the battle's won
For you have never failed me yet**

**Your promise still stands
Great is your faithfulness faithfulness
I'm still in your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed me yet**

**I know the night won't last your word will come to pass
My heart will sing your praise a - gain
Jesus you're still enough keep me within your love
My heart will sing your praise a - gain**

**Your promise still stands
Great is your faithfulness faithfulness
I'm still in your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed**

**Your promise still stands
Great is your faithfulness faithfulness
I'm still in your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed me yet**

**I've seen you move you move the moun - tains
And I believe I'll see you do it a - gain
You made a way where there was no way
And I believe I'll see you do it a - gain**

**I've seen you move you move the moun - tains
And I believe I'll see you do it a - gain
You made a way where there was no way
And I believe I'll see you do it a - gain**

**I've seen you move you move the moun - tains
And I believe I'll see you do it a - gain
You made a way where there was no way
And I believe I'll see you do it a - gain
(I'll see you do it again)**

**Your promise still stands
Great is your faithfulness faithfulness
I'm still in your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed me yet**

**Your promise still stands
Great is your faithfulness faithfulness
I'm still in your hands
This is my confidence
You've never failed me yet**

**You've never failed me yet
I never will for - get
You've never failed me yet
I never will for – get**

SongSelect # 7067555

Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, and Matt Redman

EPISTLE Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 18:21–35

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him,

saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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, died and was 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.

SERMON **"The Truth of Forgiveness"** **Matthew 18:21-35**
(Sermon Outline provided on back of Announcements)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC **"How He Loves"** John Mark McMillan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

“Living Hope”

How great the chasm that lay be - tween us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desper - ation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name in - to the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could im - agine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am for - given
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours for - ever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Halle - lujah, praise the One who set me free!
Halle - lu - jah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain, there's sal - vation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my liv - ing hope

Halle - lujah, praise the One who set me free!
Halle - lu - jah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain, there's sal - vation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my liv - ing hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus, Yours is the vic - to - ry! Whoa

Halle - lujah, praise the One who set me free!
Halle - lu - jah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain, there's sal - vation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my liv - ing hope

**Halle - lujah, praise the One who set me free!
Halle - lu - jah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain, there's sal - vation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my liv - ing hope**

**Jesus Christ, my liv - ing hope
Oh God, You are my liv - ing hope**

Song Select #7106807
Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham