

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 Church Year Cycle A



THEME FOR THE WEEK:

God is merciful and gracious, full of love.

WEEKLY MILESTONES:



Take a moment to have each person share a recent mountain high and/or valley low in their lives.

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK:



The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:8 (NRSV)

GOSPEL READING INTRODUCTION:



In this reading, Jesus answers Peter’s question about how often one should forgive someone else, not seven, but seventy-seven times. Then Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant.

GOSPEL READING:

Read: Matthew 18:21-35

A parable about forgiveness

GOSPEL READING QUESTIONS:



1. In this reading, how often does Jesus tell Peter that he should forgive someone who sins against Peter?	<p>A Seventy-seven times</p> <p>B Never</p> <p>C Fifty-five times</p> <p>D Once a year</p>
2. In this reading, how much did the first slave owe the king?	<p>A One thousand talents</p> <p>B Ten thousand talents</p> <p>C Ten days of labor</p> <p>D Five hundred talents</p>
3. In this reading, how much did the second slave owe the first slave?	<p>A Six shekels</p> <p>B Fifty talents</p> <p>C One hundred denarii</p> <p>D One hundred talents</p>

Answer key on page 2



SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GOSPEL READING DISCUSSION:



- What words stay in your mind or what ideas do you have from this reading?
- What message do you hear for us in this reading?
- How does this reading influence your thoughts, feelings, or future actions?

RELATED READINGS FOR REVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTING:



Genesis 50:15-21	Joseph forgives his brothers
Romans 14:1-12	Do not judge one another
2 John 1:1-6	Truth and love
Lamentations 3:18-24	There is still hope
2 Peter 1:1-11	Do all you can to show God's love
Psalms 103:1-13	Thanksgiving for God's goodness

RELATED READINGS DISCUSSION:



What similar themes or general concept did you discover in these related readings? How do they connect to the theme for the week: God is merciful and gracious, full of love?

HYMN OF THE WEEK:



The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, (1832-1903)

Music: Albert Lindstrom, (1853-1955)



<https://youtu.be/YBkxh-7UHVE>

[Evangelical Lutheran Worship #683]

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of mercy and grace, give us hearts full of compassion, ready to forgive others as you have forgiven us through Christ Jesus, who died that we may live. Amen.

CLOSING BLESSING:

May the God of mercy and grace who sustains you, give you joy.



Answer Key: 1-A, 2-B, 3-C