

## 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 6, 2026

### Introduction to the day

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

### PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

### SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

### GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

### GOSPEL MESSAGE - Community Is Complicated

Navigating life with other humans is not always easy. We who call ourselves the church likely know this all too well. Perhaps you've witnessed church council meetings gone awry, frustrating conversations about the budget, or intense disagreements over worship styles. Maybe your faith community has had to navigate conflicting visions for mission and outreach, welcome and hospitality, or diversity and justice. Maybe the generational or political divides in your community feel like rifts too big to cross. As the church, we are called to wrestle with difficult questions about faith and life, but at times, even with the best of intentions, we leave one another feeling hurt, overlooked, or misunderstood.

Jesus knew a thing or two about life in community. He knew what it was like to be betrayed by the ones he loved. He shared meals with people of different backgrounds, people whose identities at times put them at odds with one another. Even his disciples never quite seemed to be on the same page! Yet Jesus knew that despite the complexity of these situations, faith is best practiced in community. Accompanying one another, sharing one another's burdens, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, and holding each other accountable are vital to the Christian life.

Therefore, managing conflict is not something to be taken lightly. Disagreements are not to be just swept under the rug, ignored until the next issue emerges. We are instead called to embrace truth-telling, courage, accountability, and compassion in our dealings with one another. The work of conflict resolution is not easy

or glamorous. In fact, it can be awkward and downright painful. But it is holy work. And by God's grace, it can be an invitation to build a community that more truly reflects God's love poured out for the whole world.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disasters especially in Nepal. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. We pray especially for Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Claude Jeannotte, Glenda Panke, Joanne Robinson, Bernadette Schueneman, Adam Schroeder, Heather Schruder, Linda Schruder, Doug Sell, Harold Warlich, Roy Zadow, those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **BLESSING (ELW p. 114)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

**Amen.**

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## Announcements:

### Sunday, September 6th – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

**Grace – Helpers – Greeter:** Silas Hoffman;

**Reader:** Donna Freitag;

**Communion Assistants:** Donna Freitag and Karen Sell

**Altar Guild:** Margaret Felhaber and Karen Sell

**Bell Ringer:** Ed Byers; **Elevator:** Jack Schaven;

**Head Usher:** Charlotte Schaven

### Monday, September 7th

**9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM** - Quilting at Grace

### Tuesday, September 8th

**10:00 AM** – Bible Study

### Wednesday, September 9th

**6:30 to 8:30 PM** – Community Choir

### Thursday, September 10th

**9:00 AM to 11:30 AM** – Toy Bus

**10:00 AM** – Grace Choir

**9:30 AM** – Clergy Cluster Meeting - Schutt

### Sunday, September 13th – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

**Grace – Helpers – Greeter:** Dianne Kasdorff;

**Reader:** Stacey Lance;

**Altar Guild:** Margaret Felhaber and Karen Sell

**Bell Ringer:** Ed Byers;

**Elevator:** Jack Schaven; **Head Usher:** Charlotte Schaven

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1. **Living Water:** This year's theme for the Season of Creation (September 1 to October 4) is "Living Water," with the symbol "Immersion in Living Water." Inspired by Ezekiel 47:9–12, the theme invites us to reflect on God's life-giving waters that bring healing, renewal, and flourishing for all creation, and to consider our shared responsibility to protect and restore the Earth's ecosystems. You will see that we have come up with a way to show the living water coming from the font. Take a minute to reflect how living water affects you.
2. **Rally Sunday.** On September 13th we will be having Rally Sunday to mark the start of Sunday school this fall. I know, the kids will have something special for us and I have come up with a theme to mark new beginnings for them, again another surprise. **Don't forget that Sunday School is also**

**planning a potluck meal after worship that day.** Please show your support and bring something to share.

The Sunday School invites you to help fill our wagons with food for the Eganville Foodbank. This will take place in the narthex from September 6 until October 11, Thanksgiving Sunday. Please show your love to your neighbours by filling our wagons to the top!

The Sunday School is always needing volunteers for teachers, helpers, crafts, etc. In particular, this year we are looking for a volunteer to keep our snack cupboard filled with drinks and snacks for the Sunday school children, with funds from our budget. If you can help out in any way, please reach out.