



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Prayer of the Day

God of grace, through your Son you have reconciled your creation to yourself. Still, we continue to find ways to divide and destroy the unity you intend for us. Guide your church that, assured of Christ's presence among us, we may model the peace and reconciliation that can only come from you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. "And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Lessons for Next Week: Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-12;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Psalm 32:1-8

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**²Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
I was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

**⁶I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

⁷Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in
time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall
not reach them.

**⁸You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For
there is no authority except from God, and those that exist
have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the
authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who
resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good
conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who
is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive
his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if
you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in
vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries
out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be
in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the
sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes,
for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this
very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom
taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed,

respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is
owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the
one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the
commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not
murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other
commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love
your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:12-20

Jesus said to his disciples: What do you think? If a man has a
hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not
leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the
one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he
rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went
astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that
one of these little ones should perish. ¹⁵If your brother sins
against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him
alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But
if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that
every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three
witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.
And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you
as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever
you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you
loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if
two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be
done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three
are gathered in my name, there am I among them."