

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

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Portions from *Sundays & Seasons 2023*

Setting Four

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

# Joy & Concerns

## Prelude

Brenda Bruce, Guest Musician

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P.** Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C. Amen**

**P.** Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P.** Steadfast and faithful God,

**C.** you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

**We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

**P.** Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven

**C. Amen**

## Gathering Hymn

*Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

ELW 452

## The Greeting

**P.** From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

**C. And also with you.**

## This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

*All*



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



## **Prayer of the Day**

**A. Let us pray**

**C. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **First Reading**

### **Genesis 50:15-21**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

**L. Word of God, word of life.**

**C. Thanks be to God.**





Psalmody

Psalm 103:1-13

(tone 1)

spoken responsively

Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup> O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's <sup>1</sup> holy name.

**Bless the LORD, <sup>1</sup> O my soul,  
and forget not <sup>1</sup> all God's benefits—**

who forgives <sup>1</sup> all your sins  
and heals all <sup>1</sup> your diseases;

**who redeems your life <sup>1</sup> from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast <sup>1</sup> love and mercy;**

who satisfies your desires <sup>1</sup> with good things  
so that your youth is renewed <sup>1</sup> like an eagle's.

**O LORD, you provide <sup>1</sup> vindication  
and justice for all who <sup>1</sup> are oppressed.**

You made known your <sup>1</sup> ways to Moses  
and your works to the chil- <sup>1</sup> dren of Israel.

**LORD, you are full of compas- <sup>1</sup> sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in <sup>1</sup> steadfast love;**

you will not al- <sup>1</sup> ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- <sup>1</sup> ger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according <sup>1</sup> to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to <sup>1</sup> our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high a- <sup>1</sup> bove the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for <sup>1</sup> those who fear you.

**As far as the east is <sup>1</sup> from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgres- <sup>1</sup> sions from us.**

As a father has compassion <sup>1</sup> for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD.



## Second Reading

### Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.



Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**L.** Word of God, word of life.

**C.** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation



**P.** The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter eighteen.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one

who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

**P.** The gospel of the Lord.

**C.** Praise to you O Christ.



**Sermon**

John Petry, Interim Pastor

**Hymn of the Day**

*Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*

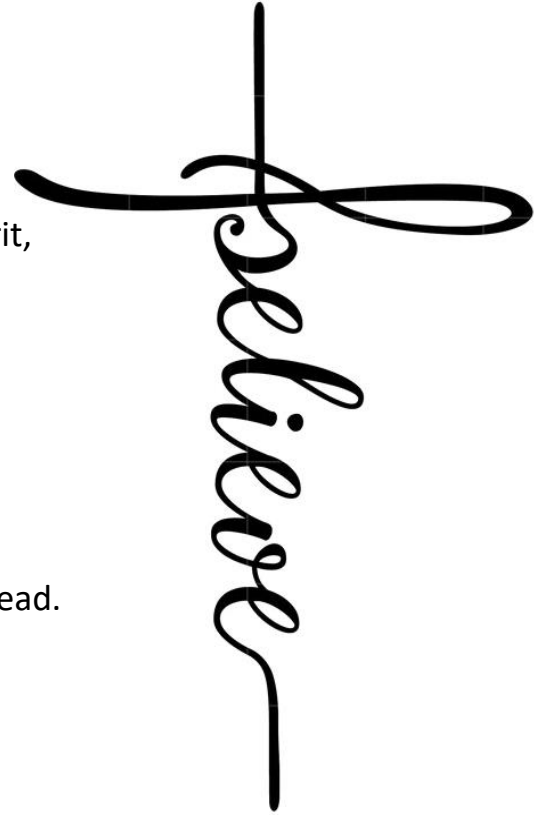
ELW 605

# *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the Virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen



## **Prayers of Intercession**

**A.** Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence*

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

**C. receive our prayer.**

**P.** Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**C. Amen.**



## The Peace

- P. Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
May His peace be with you always.
- C. And also with you.



## The Offering

### Anthem

*They Shall Soar Like Eagles*

Choir

Let the vineyards...

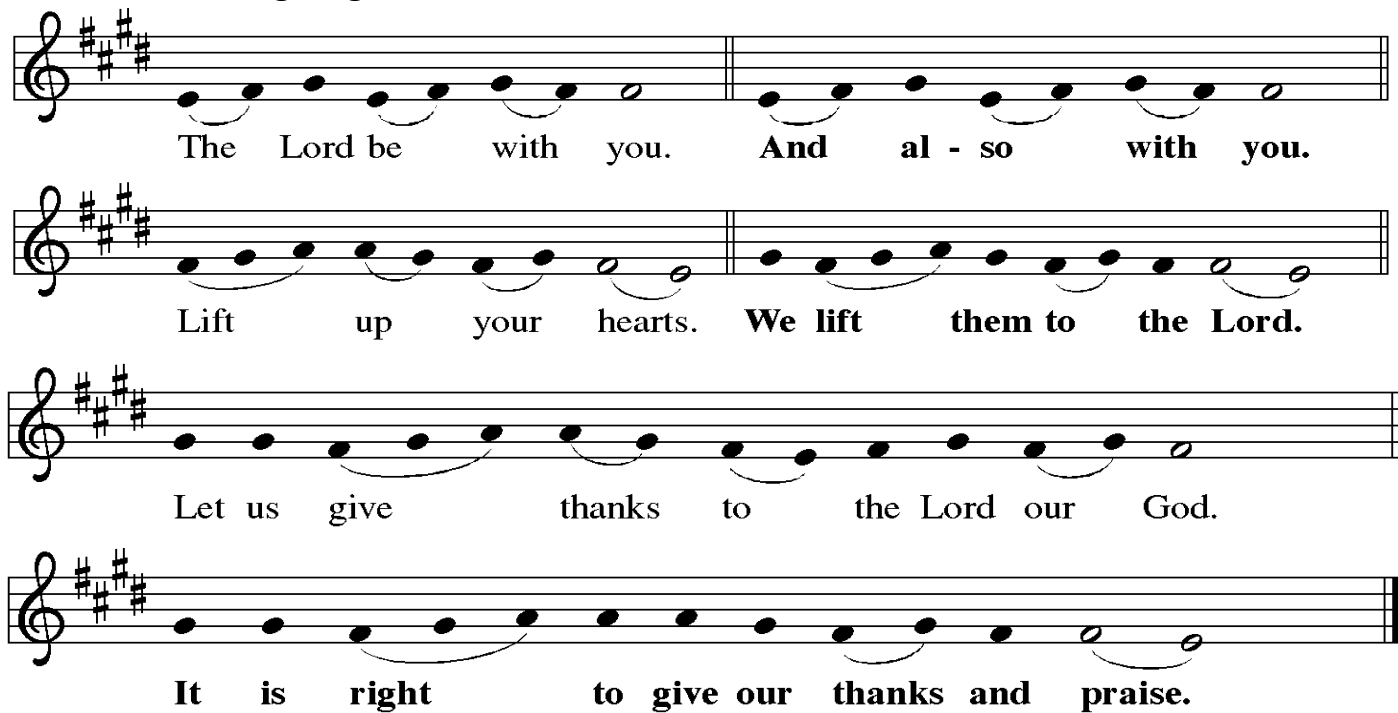
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical notation is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

## Offertory Prayer

- A. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

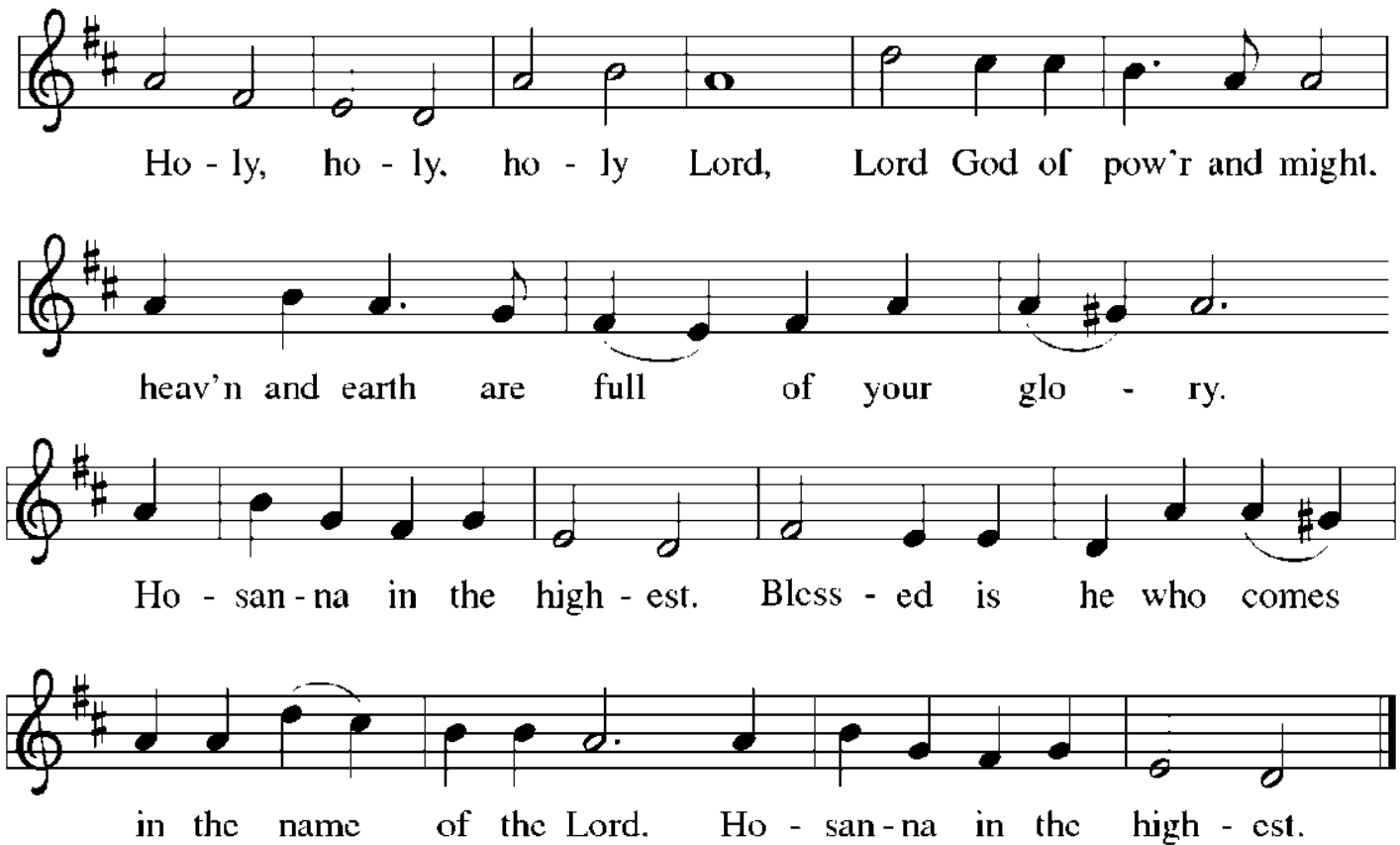
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed.....

## The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might.

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer



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

## Invitation to Communion

**P.** Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live. Everyone is invited, no exceptions.  
**C.** Amen.

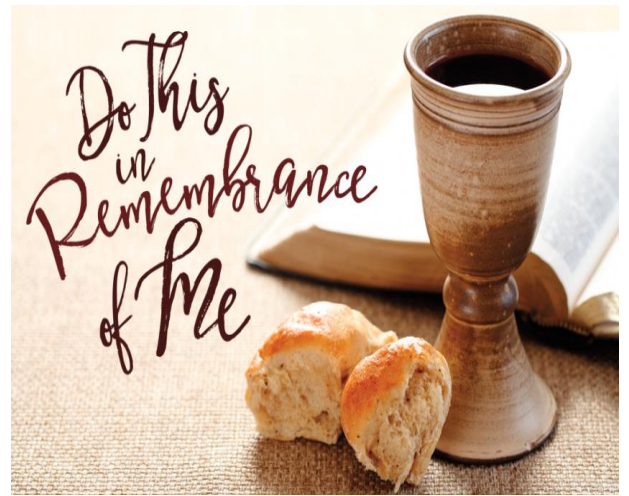
## Lamb of God

The musical notation for the 'Lamb of God' hymn is presented in four staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating where a single note spans multiple syllables. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.'

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymns

<i>Come to the Table</i>	(sung twice)	ELW 481
<i>When We Are Living</i>		ELW 639
<i>Goodness Is Stronger than Evil</i>		ELW 721



## Post Communion Blessing

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.  
C. Amen

## Post Communion Cantic

*Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

ELW 204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Post Communion Prayer

A. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.  
C. Amen.

## Blessing

P. The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

## Sending Hymn

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

ELW 543

## Dismissal

A. Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C. Thanks be to God.

## Postlude



*After Worship Fellowship  
Provided By Your  
Church Council*



## Servers for Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

Assisting Minister ..... Sylvia Lambert  
Reader ..... Rebecca von St. Paul  
Altar Guild ..... Grace Barnes  
Greeters/Counters ..... Tim Clark / Linda Hash  
Guest Musician ..... Brenda Bruce

Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.

serve  
ONE ANOTHER IN  
*love*   
*galatians 5:13*



**Flowers** this week are provided by  
the Flower Fund.

**Candles** for  
September are  
provided by Tom &  
Alecia Harrison  
in honor of Ben &  
Lori's Baptisms.



Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the hallway.



*Pray for your  
Call Committee*

Family of Tomma Hargraves

Family of Monna Stamm

Rita's co-worker, Elizabeth Alexander – colon cancer

Kathy Hart's brother, Dan – recovering from a stroke

Ginny King's sister, Mary Anna Strickler – broken hip / hip replacement

Sylvia Lambert's grandson, Ian – deployment to Republic of Niger, West Africa

Tess Andrews' brother, David Van Benschoten

Wendy Casey's mom, Barbara – under hospice care

Lora Clark's friend, Rebecca Bowman – recovering

Clyde Bogle's sister-in-law, Wanda – cancer

Sheryll's friend Tony – terminal cancer

Mr. Smith, neighbor of Carolyn Watkins

Father of Julya Mirro - (Gale's friend)

Holly Hans' sister, Heather House & her family

Linda Hash's brother, Charles Barlow

Linda Hash's sister-in-law, Beth Hash Lennon

Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn Harbertson – breast cancer

Tim & Rita's sister-in-law, Jane Clark – breast cancer has returned

Rebecca Swanson's sister in PA – Post Polio Syndrome

Rebecca Swanson's nephew – Dr. David Shaefer

Andrew Avakian – MS

Sheila Dorey – recovering from angioplasty

Peg Stamp – under hospice care

Diana Havenstein

Rob Havenstein

Donna Hannah – bad fall

Mary Ann Jackson      Dayshaun

Jim Powers      Sharon Vietri

Holly Han's mother, Carol Hardy

Jonathan McCoy

The logo features the word "pray" in a large, dark, serif font, with "EVERY DAY" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font below it. A green palm frond graphic is positioned behind the word "pray".

pray  
EVERY DAY