

24TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME | PROPER 19
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

**All those able, please stand*

Preparing for Worship: *If last week’s Gospel lesson was challenging, wait until you hear what Jesus says about forgiveness!* When Peter asks, “How many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me?” Jesus calls us beyond keeping score and into the boundless mercy of God. As we prepare for worship, may our hearts be open to receive God’s forgiveness and to extend that same mercy to others. Lord, help us!

Prelude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Accompanist

Welcome and Greetings in Jesus’ Name

***Opening Hymn #** “There’s A Wideness In God’s Mercy”

***Opening Prayer (Stand)**

Song of Faith # 151 “Bless His Holy Name” *BLESS HIS HOLY NAME*

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Scripture Reader: Angie Foster

The First Reading Exodus 14:19-31

The Second Reading Romans 14:1-12

Gospel Reader: Deacon Sonia Roling

***The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ** Matthew 18:21-35

***Responsorial # 534** “Take My Life And Let It Be” *HENDON*

***Greeting our Family and Neighbors (Stand)**

The Children's Sermon (Kids Preschool–3rd Grade go to Children’s Church)

Announcements, Prayers of the People and The Lord’s 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

Presentation of Tithes, Gifts, and Donations – The Apostle wrote: “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God” (Hebrews 13:16). May God smile upon each giver and gift we offer to Him in faith in Jesus’ name.

Offertory & *Doxology

***A Prayer of Illumination:** Father of freedom, You redeemed Your people out of slavery with a mighty hand and rescued us from death to life in Jesus Christ. Deliver us from our captivity to selfish pride and indifference to the needs and gifts of others, that we may be ready to forgive as You forgive, love as You have loved us, and to give even as we have received. In the Spirit we pray. **Amen.**

The Message “The Measure of Mercy: Stop Keeping Score”
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

*"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover
that the prisoner was you." Lewis B. Smedes (1921–2002)*

WE RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH AND SERVICE

Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God’s forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to be a follower of Jesus in the waters of baptism or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

***Hymn (Stand) # 574** “O Happy Day” *HAPPY DAY*

***Spoken Benediction**

Postlude Janice Hedberg-Boyce, Church Accompanist
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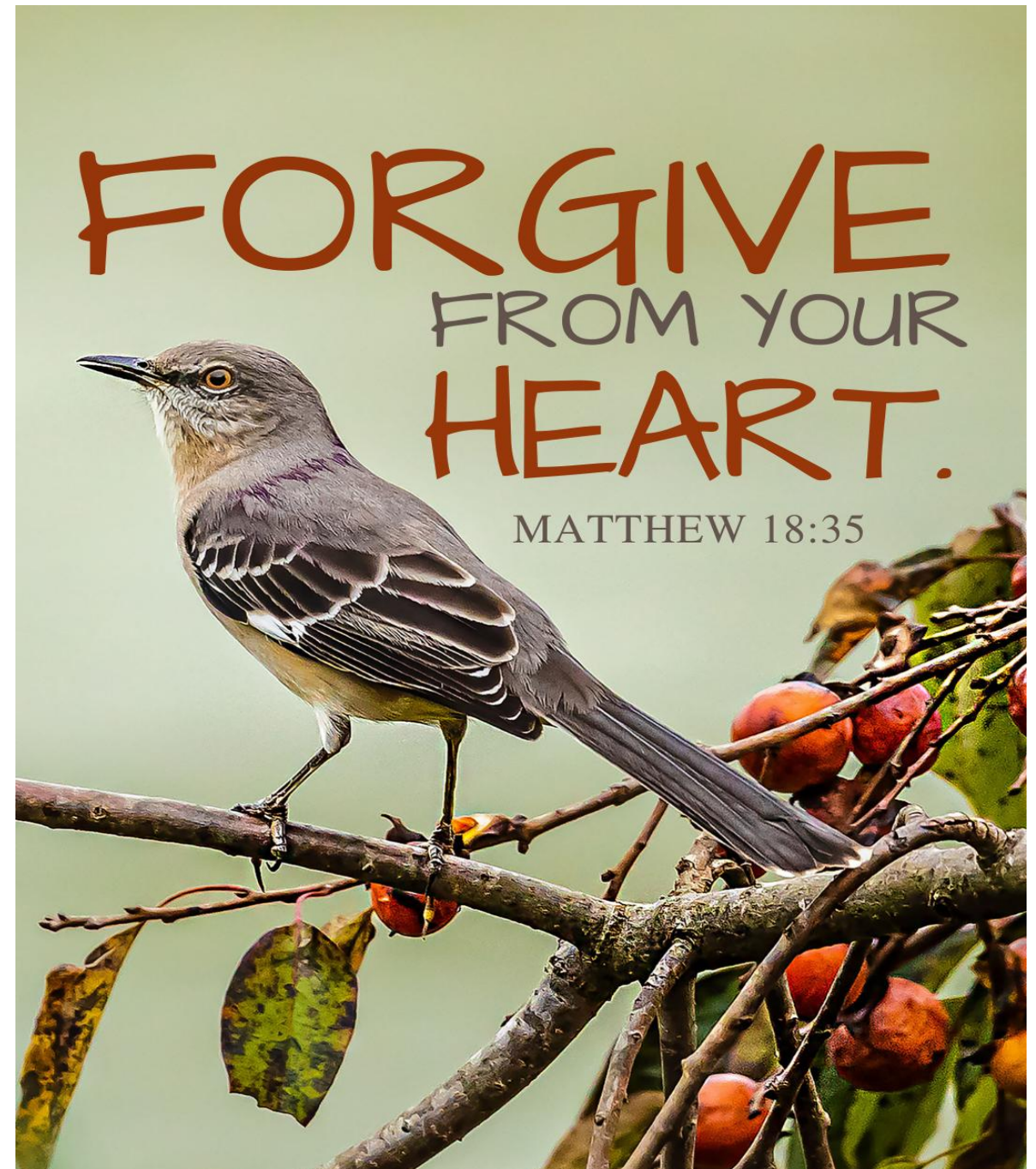
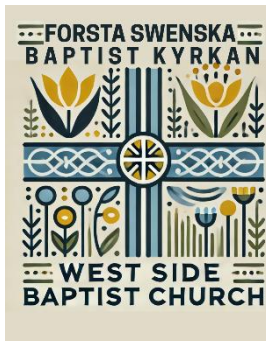
HOW TO BECOME A FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF JESUS

GOOD NEWS! God loves you and wants to rescue all people from the consequences of evil. The Bible teaches the way to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ:

1. **ADMIT** – Admit to God you have done wrong things (sinned) that have hurt God and others. Apologize to God, turn away from harmful behavior, and start doing good things (See Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19).
2. **BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR YOU AND GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD** – Accept and trust that Jesus is God's one and only Son who died on the cross in your place and give God the credit for raising Jesus from the dead (See Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31a; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:6).
3. **CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD** – Make a religious commitment to be a fully devoted follower of Jesus by trusting Him to be your Rescuer, Redeemer (Savior), and Ultimate Leader (Lord). (See Romans 10:9 and 10; Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)
4. **DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO THE JESUS WAY** - Tell your family and friends about your new trust in Jesus Christ by coming to the front of the Sanctuary at the end of a worship service to publicly share your decision to be a follower of Jesus (Christian).

HOW TO JOIN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH - COME FORWARD – Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and accepting the Baptist principles, practices, and the covenant of this church, may join this Christian church. Persons interested in affiliating should speak with the Pastor or come forward at a congregation meeting. A person may join by Believer's Baptism, Letter of Transfer from a previous Christian church with prior baptism, or a Satisfactory Statement of Christian Faith.

OUR MISSION – We love God, and we love People, by sharing the Good News of God's forgiving, renewing love in Jesus Christ by word and deed to improve the lives of neighbors. West Side Baptist Church is an independent, autonomous Christian church partnering for mission support with like-minded people of faith in our City, County, State, Nation, and World.



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