



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Preparation for Worship

*Holy God, you prepare a table for us
in the presence of our enemies –
the great feast of our salvation.
Nourish us always at your table,
that we may feed others
with the promise of your saving love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

Voluntary

Adagio
HWV 366/3

G. F. Handel
(1685-1759)

Greeting

Please sign and pass the friendship folder.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Introit

O come, let us sing (excerpt)

David Bednall
(b. 1979)

O come let us sing unto the Lord:
Let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving:
And show ourselves glad in him with Psalms.

Adapt. Psalm 95:1-2

✦ Opening Sentences

Praise the Lord!
**Sing to the Lord a new song,
sing praise among the faithful.**
Let the people of God be glad;
let us rejoice, dance, and sing.
For the Lord rejoices in the people;
God gives glory to the humble of heart.

✦ Hymn 174 ([see page 9](#))

Come and Seek the Ways of the Wisdom

MADELEINE

✦ Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
 you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.
 We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy.
 We have not loved you with a pure heart,
 nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We have not done justice, loved kindness,
 or walked humbly with you, our God.

Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness.
 In your great compassion,
 cleanse us from our sin.

Do not cast us away from your presence,
 or take your Holy Spirit from us.
 Restore to us the joy of your salvation
 and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

silent prayer

✦ Response *(sung twice)*

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall
 be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

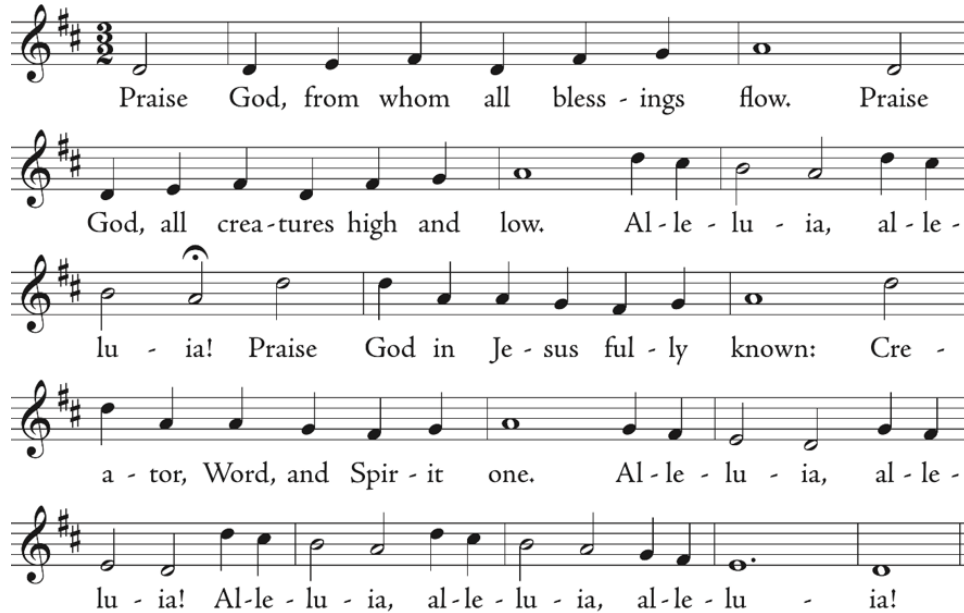
TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
 Text and music © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG), Iona Community (administered by GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM
 7.7.7.4.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

✦ Response



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise
God, all crea-tures high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia! Praise God in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre -
a - tor, Word, and Spir - it one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

✦ The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

Conversation with Children

Infants - Age 4 may go to the Nursery in Room 106.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:15-20

N. T. pg. 20

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Amazing Grace

David Ashley White
(b. 1944)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

John Newton, 1779

Sermon

The Gathering Area

Omar Rouchon

silence and stillness

✦ Hymn 503 [\(see page 10\)](#)

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

O QUANTA QUALIA

Offering

Offertory

Adagio e dolce from Trio Sonata III
BWV 527/2

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

It is right to praise you, God...

we sing the ageless hymn of your glory:

Howard Hughes, SM
(b. 1930)

REFRAIN *Choir first, then all:*



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

<i>Choir:</i> Holy, holy, Holy Lord God of power and might.	<i>Refrain – all</i>
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.	<i>Refrain – all</i>
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.	<i>Refrain – all</i>

With all who love Jesus and honor his name...

Great is the mystery of faith:

Choir first, then all:



Christ has died. Christ is ri - sen. Christ will come a - gain.

Gracious God, as we do what Jesus once did...

...all glory and honor are yours, now and forever:

Choir first, then all:



A - men, a - men, a - men.

With the confidence of the children of God, let us pray as Jesus taught:

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.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;

for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power,

and the glory forever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread and the Sharing of God's Gifts

Communion Music

Gott versorget alles Leben
BWV 187/5

J. S. Bach

<i>Gott versorget alles Leben,</i>	God takes care of every life
<i>Was hienieden Odem hegt.</i>	Which draws breath here below.
<i>Sollt er mir allein nicht geben,</i>	Would He not give to me alone
<i>Was er allen zugesagt?</i>	What He has promised to all?
<i>Weicht, ihr Sorgen, seine Treue</i>	Worries, be gone! His faithfulness
<i>Ist auch meiner Eingedenk</i>	Is my one and only consideration,
<i>Und wird ob mir täglich neue</i>	And is renewed for me daily
<i>Durch manch Vaterliebs Geschenk.</i>	Through the many gifts of a Father's love.

Original author unknown
Transl. Pamela Dellal

✠ Prayer after Communion

**We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have fed us with your mercy
and poured out your Spirit in this place.
Continue to nourish and fill us each day,
that we may live as your beloved people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ Hymn 546 [\(page 11\)](#)

Lord, Dismiss Us with your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINERS

✠ Charge and Blessing

Please be seated in silence for the closing voluntary, or kindly depart quietly.

Voluntary

Allegro
HWV 366/2

G. F. Handel

SERVING TODAY

Pastors

Keatan King | Omar Rouchon

Liturgist

Orlean Anderson

Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | Pablo Moreno, oboe | St. Philip Choir | Julia Fox, soprano
Justin Langham, director of music

WORSHIP NOTES

To receive communion today, please come forward via the center aisle, receive a piece of bread. The bread may be dipped in the chalice of grape juice and consumed or you may take a small cup of grape juice from the tray. You may return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available; just ask the servers as you come forward. Those with mobility challenges may receive communion in their seats; just signal the servers. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion today.

An additional offering is received when communion is celebrated. Gifts brought forward during today's final hymn support Liberty HS (LHS). LHS is dedicated to helping new immigrants learn English and earn their high school diplomas, regardless of their previous education levels. Many of these students have few or no credits toward a high school diploma. Liberty is a year-round educational facility. Many students are in need of basic essentials such as soap, toothpaste, feminine hygiene items and even food. With the coming winter, funds will focus on purchasing warm sweatshirts and then basic essentials. Gifts may be brought to the front basket during the final hymn. You may also make a secure contribution through saintphilip.net and choosing the Communion fund or by sending a check to the church office, with "Communion" in the memo line.

Today's readings and prayers are borrowed from various sources such as:

Exodus 12:1-14 | Psalm 149 | Ezekiel 33:7-11 | Psalm 119:33-4 | Romans 13:8-14 | Matthew 18:15-20

SABBATICAL NOTES:

John Wurster is on a sabbatical through November 9. Guided by the phrase attributed to Augustine, "It is solved by walking," John is reflecting on a series of scripture passages as part of his daily walking regimen over these three months. You are invited to join him in engaging the biblical texts through the weeks. The passage for the week of September 7 is Micah 6:8—What does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to *walk* humbly with your God?

MUSIC NOTES

Handel's Oboe Sonata in C Minor, HWV 366, exhibits characteristics found in many of his more familiar compositions while also demonstrating his command of diverse musical genres. Today's **voluntaries** draw attention to two contrasting styles: the soaring melodic character of the third movement and the contrapuntal sophistication and technical virtuosity of the second.

English composer, organist, and conductor David Bednall has earned significant recognition for his sacred music, including from Oxford University Press, where he serves as a House Composer. Today's **introit** is the opening of Bednall's setting of Psalm 95, presenting this joyful call to praise in a tuneful melody whose apparent simplicity belies its underlying harmonic and metrical complexity.

Our **anthem** comes from Houston's own David Ashley White, former composition teacher and director of the

University of Houston Moores School of Music. His memorable setting of the traditional NEW BRITAIN hymn tune captures its simple origins, creating an accessible yet evolving musical texture through a sustained organ accompaniment and expressive choral lines that elegantly interplay with an oboe obbligato.

J. S. Bach composed the cantata *Es wartet alles auf dich*, BWV 187 ("Everything waits for You") in 1726, only a few years after moving to Leipzig. Its fifth movement—today's **communion music**—features a soprano soloist to depict the mood of the text in two contrasting sections: a comforting melodic section in dialogue with solo oboe, and a faster dance-like section at the phrase "Worries, be gone!"

— Notes by Matthew Dirst & Justin Langham

IN OUR PRAYERS

Melissa Aldrich and family upon the death of Guy Aldrich, husband, father, and grandfather who died on Aug. 28. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 12 at 11 a.m.

St. Philippians and their families—Sondra Sullivan; Angelina Fonseca-Grewal; John Bobbitt; Molly Boren; Charlotte Kibler; Laney Miller; Laurie Sims; Jan Meyer; Emily Estill; Joy Maguire; Bonnie Moore; Bob Ardell; Diane Clarke; Mary Herlitz; Eleanor Grant; Don Padgett; Arlette Keene; Mezgebe Gebray; Ada & Bob Austin—parents of Nina Lambright; Barbara Torpy—sister of Gary Willis; Bill Davis—brother of Meg Scott-Johnson; Lara Bain—niece of Jo Helland; Jonathan Castro—brother of David Castro; Jo Hadley Smith—cousin of William Rowe; Katie Forbes—daughter of Marise Robbins-Forbes; Ann Perenyi—mother of Lad Perenyi; Suzanne Frazier & Ann Perkins Cloud—cousins of Stephen Paine.

Homebound—Elizabeth Arp; Beverly Baker; Joan Boelens; Joe Harwood; Kathryn Harwood; Jan Ostendorf; Joyce Randolph; Larraine Scott; Sondra Sullivan; and Mary Sinderson.

Friends of St. Philippians—Camilo Triana—uncle of Jesús Toribio; Austin Miller—friend of Charles Swan; Christiane Richter—friend of Roderick James; Ann Swanson—friend of Deborah Unruh; Tanya Voinche & Sidney Roach—friends of Stephen Paine; Keith Kirby, Tandi Porter, Audrey Eubank Harris, Jay Stokes & Anna Domonte—friends of Curt & Sharon Webb; Marianne Hash—friend of Jane Cooper; Kenneth & Donna Benton—friends of William Rowe; Patty Ryan & Tom Barnett—friends of Robin & Gary Willis; and Shirley Stubblefield—friend of Barbara Runge.

If you have a pastoral care need or a prayer request you would like to share, please email: deacons@saintphilip.net

Prayer List is a powerful tool for bringing comfort, healing, and peace to those in need. So, let's keep it up to date and continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

Prayer of Confession taken from the *Book of Common Worship* (2018), Presbyterian Church (USA).

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NURSERY CARE IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find that our Nursery is located in the hallway off of the Gathering Area. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES START AT 9:45 AM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

GODLY PLAY—Ages 3—Kindergarten—Room 103—led by Ruthie Waldrop, Omi Ford, Joyce Fox, and Jane Cooper

CHILDREN: Grades 1-4—Room 206—Jon Martin and Olga Piskor

YOUTH—Grades 5-12—Room 205—Keatan King

ADULT BIBLE STUDY—ROOM 204—Al Waldrop—We are studying Isaiah in Volume 2, *Prophets*, in Dr. Robert Alter's *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary* (2019). Join us as we seek to deepen our understanding of God's faithfulness to all God's people. All are welcome.

CHURCH & SOCIETY—ROOM 201—Ken Meyers, John Hartman, Ken Fountain, Denise Wilborn, Judy Hartman—Join us from **9:30–10:40 AM** with presentations in person and by Zoom. **Sept. 13**—Monico Rivas, Principal of Liberty High School, will share his vision for this unique educational institution. If you would like the Zoom link for the classes, email: jshartman01@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL—In the Children's Chapel, our young disciples learn the whos, whats, wheres, whens and whys of worship in the chapel, while also praying, seeing and hearing God's word at an age-appropriate level. Children return to join the congregation in the first few pews on the lectern side of the church for the last hymn. The Children's Chapel is held every 2nd and 4th Sunday when we have Sunday School classes. Children are able to participate in this during the worship service.



ST PHILIP DURING THE WEEK

Social Justice Study Group. Please join us for our next book discussion on Monday, Oct. 5, 7-8 p.m. zoom. A review of Matthew Desmond's *Poverty, by America* will be led by Keatan King. This book is available anywhere you buy your books. It is a very readable, concisely written treatise by a Pulitzer Prize winner, a contributing writer to The New York Times. Do mark your calendars; a zoom link will be sent out the day before to those who want to participate. Contact Sara Jean Jackson at:

sjj10223@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MONTHLY BOOK CLUB—This self-led, interactive group produces lively discussions and wonderful fellowship. The next meeting is **Sept. 10** at 7:00 PM. *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nina Lambright at:

nnl@lambrightlaw.com.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP—**Returns Sept. 25**—Men of all ages are welcome to participate in this self-led group. The Men's Weekly Fellowship meets each Friday in person in the office Conference Room and via Zoom at 11:45 AM. We are discussing *Short Stories by Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine. If you would like to join them please contact Gary Gardner at:

ggardne148@aol.com.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—**Returns Sept. 9**—Wednesday Bible study with the pastor meets weekly at 9:30 AM, and is a hybrid format with an in-person option in the Office Conference Room and also a Zoom option. Bible novices, Bible experts, and everyone in between is welcome! To get on the list for the Zoom links, send a note to: welcomer@saintphilip.net

NATIVE PLANTS—The Earth Care Team invites members of all ages to help plant four beds with native plants on the San Felipe side of campus on the morning of Saturday, **October 17**. More details will be available in early October. To learn more about our plans for adding more native plants to our campus, join us in the Gathering Area before church on **13**.





[GUEST BOOK]

Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at saintphilip.net.

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,

**we seek to be an inclusive,
grace-filled community,
engaging the world with open minds,
willing hands and generous hearts.**

WE LONG

**for deeper faith,
vibrant hope
and boundless love
for everyone, every day, everywhere.**

Thank you for joining us today! We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the Narthex on the way into the Sanctuary. Resources such as noise-dampening headphones and fidget tools for our neurodivergent neighbors and anyone needing sensory support can be found there too.

Nursery care is available throughout the morning from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery has returned to the Education Bldg. and can be accessed from the hall off the Gathering Area on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

A **Hearing Loop** is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your "T switch" to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones.

LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY'S BULLETINS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.

Contributions, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056.



[MAKE A CONTRIBUTION]



I Give Electronically – in response to parents' hopes that their children might be able to see their ongoing commitment to St. Philip and with the intent to better represent the totality of our giving as a congregation, we have available in the pews giving cards that can be placed in the offering plate by our electronic givers.

Connect with St. Philip through saintphilip.net and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to lorrie@saintphilip.net.

If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in Room 100 for the purpose of receiving new members.**

Worship with us, whenever, wherever. Our 11:00 AM Sunday service is live-streamed at saintphilip.net. Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

Lost & Found – did you leave a pair of glasses, umbrella, or other item during worship? There is a canvas basket in the Library where these items may be found. Jewelry, phones and more valuable items are turned into Lorrie Castle in the Church Office, lorrie@saintphilip.net or 713-622-4807.

Nametags – Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible moment! Those returned tags will be replaced on the boards in the narthex before the following Sunday morning. Visitor nametags are available in the pews and from an usher.

St. Philip Day School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high-quality childcare at no cost to low-income families. (www.stphilipdayschool.org) To support the school, **please make all contributions payable directly to St. Philip Day School** or visit their website for online donations. You are welcome to leave in the church offering plate or mail to St. Philip Day School, 4807 San Felipe, Houston, 77056. If you have any questions, please email: Director@stphilipdayschool.org.

Hymn 174

Come and Seek the Ways of the Wisdom

1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who

earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket-place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,

for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -

path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Drawing on numerous scriptural images of Wisdom (Greek: *Sophia*), especially in Proverbs, this text offers an alternative perspective on Trinitarian theology. The Wisdom tradition has played a role in Christian mysticism for centuries, as witnessed by the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1993
 MUSIC: Donna Kasbohm, 1995
 Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press
 Music © 1997 The Pilgrim Press

MADELEINE
 8.7.8.7.8.7

[Return to page 2](#)

Hymn 503

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

1 Lord, we have come at your own in - vi - ta - tion,
 2 Here, at your ta - ble, con - firm our in - ten - tion;
 3 When, at your ta - ble, each time of re - turn - ing,
 cho - sen by you, to be count - ed your friends;
 give it your seal of for - give - ness and grace;
 vows are re - newed and our cour - age re - stored,
 yours is the strength that sus - tains ded - i - ca - tion;
 teach us to serve with - out pride or pre - ten - sion,
 may we in - creas - ing - ly glo - ry in learn - ing
 ours, a com - mit - ment we know nev - er ends.
 Lord, in your king - dom, what - ev - er our place.
 all that it means to ac - cept you as Lord.

St. Augustine spoke of eucharist as "the repeatable part of baptism," and this hymn reminds us that each time we share in the Lord's Supper we are renewing our baptismal vows. The text is set to a tune that dates to the transition between plainchant and modern tonalities.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1977, alt.

MUSIC: Paris Antiphoner, 1681; harm. La Feillée's *Méthode du plain-chant*, 1808
 Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company

O QUANTA QUALIA
 11.10.11.10

[Return to page 4](#)

Hymn 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

This hymn of corporate benediction is one of several using the same first line. It was written by a Baptist pastor who dedicated his entire ministry to a small church in rural Yorkshire. The tune used here was first transcribed from Sicilian sailors in the late 18th century.

TEXT: Attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.; stanza 3, alt. Geoffrey Thring, 1880, alt.
 MUSIC: Sicilian melody, 18th cent.

SICILIAN MARINERS
 8.7.8.7.8.7

[Return to page 5](#)