



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020

Service of the Word

11:00 a.m.

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.

✝ GATHERING ✝

*The Holy Spirit
gathers us in unity
on the first day of
the week
(Isaiah 48:14
John 4:23-24
Acts 20:7)*

*We worship on the
first day of the
week because our
Savior was raised
on that day. Every
Sunday celebrates
the Lord's
Resurrection.*

*We confess our
sins to God and
receive God's
assurance of
forgiveness
(1 John 1:8-9;
Eph. 4:32;
1 Jn. 2:12)*

PRELUDE

**Prelude on *Nettleton* (ELW 807)
Craig Phillips**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

ELW 807

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Nettleton



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

APOSTOLIC GREETING

(2 Corinthians
13:13-14)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



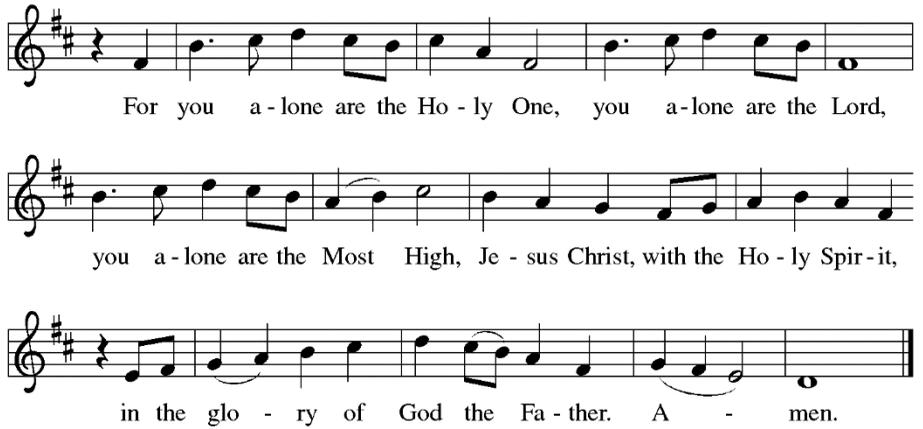
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Asking for
God's mercy
(Luke 17:13;
18-38-39,
Psalm 123:3)



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

*This prayer
 "collects"
 the theme of
 the day.*

✠ THE WORD OF GOD ✠

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 14:1-12

The reading is from the 14th chapter of Romans.

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.

*This reading
 bears witness to
 the early church.*

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOspel ACCLAMATION

*We acclaim the
living Word,
Jesus Christ,
present in the
gospel reading.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

*Appointed
reading of God's
Word from the
four Gospels
(Matthew, Mark,
Luke, John)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON

Pastor Patrick Ballard

APOSTLES’ CREED

With the whole Christian church on earth, we recall the Creed spoken on the day of our baptism that continues to shape our faith:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 THE CHURCH

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*“Viva Vox,” the
Living Word of God
interpreted
(Romans 10:14-17)*

*Ancient church
councils adopted
the summary of the
church’s faith in the
Nicene, Apostles’
and Athanasian
Creeds*

*We pray for
ourselves and
particularly on
behalf of others.
(1 Timothy 2:1-2;
1 Thessalonians
5:17; Acts 2:42)*

*Extending God’s
word of peace
to others
(Romans 16:16;
Matthew 5:23-24)*

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

*We present tithes
and offerings for
God's ministry
and mission.
(1 Corinthians
16:1-4;
Romans 12:13)*

OFFERING

Please continue to provide generously for the work of the Church by giving online through our congregation's website or by mailing offerings to the office.

SOLO

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

Katherine Davis

Sarah Berger, soprano

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy unto them that fear him. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

- Psalm 103:1-4,11,13

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

*We give thanks
for the living
Word of God
(Hebrews 4:12)*

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word, for calling creation into being, declaring forgiveness from the cross, and delivering the spirit of rebirth. **We praise you, O God, for your Word.**

Your word is a lamp lighting our path, a mirror reflecting our selves, a shield providing us refuge, a fire burning for justice and truth. Your word is sweeter than honey: it nourishes our bodies like milk, it sustains your people like bread. We receive your promises, more treasured than gold. **We bless you, O God, for your Word.**

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints, and to all the cries of the needy. Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ, that heeding your voice of beauty and power we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath -- **we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word. Amen.**

*Jesus teaches his
disciples to pray
(Luke 11:2-4;
Matthew 6:9-13)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*A personal
blessing from God
in the name of the
Triune God
(Numbers 6:24-26)*

*On our way
rejoicing
(Colossians 3:16;
Philippians 4:4)*

CLOSING HYMN

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

Ar hyd y nos



1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

*Going forth to
bless the world
(Luke 7:50;
Romans 10:12-13)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 623
“We thank you, Lord Jesus Christ”
Johann Sebastian Bach

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