



Sunday Worship, September 13, 2020
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

St Luke Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

Bud Esper, Director of Church Music
Alice Christiansen, Hymn Leader
Joan Eccard, Lector
Emil Gnam, Worship Assistant

Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God
In memory of Emil and Carolyn Gnam's nephew Lieutenant Thomas Kelly, FDNY and
friends Terrance Farrell, FDNY and George Howard, Port Authority Police. They all
made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty on September 11, 2001 at the World
Trade Center.

SUNDAY WORSHIP, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
15th Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" (Ellacombe), arr. Matt Limbaugh.
Bud Esper Organ.

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GATHERING

P The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

c Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

c Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

c we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have

mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

c Amen.

GREETING

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

c And also with you.

KYRIE

WA In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

c Lord, have mercy.

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

c Lord, have mercy.

WA For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

c Lord, have mercy.

WA For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

c Lord, have mercy.

WA Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

c Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

WA 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.

c Amen.

WORD

P God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

L A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

c Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103: 8-13

L ⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

c ⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

L ¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

c ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

L ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

c ¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

L A reading from Romans.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L The word of the Lord.

c Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P *Alleluia.* In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

P The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

c Glory to you, O Lord.

P ²¹Peter 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?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten

thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So 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 +++ Rev. Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor +++

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" (TWENTY-FOURTH), #359 (*verses 1, 4 & 5*)

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- 1 Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.

- 4 Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.

- 5 Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.

APOSTLES' CREED

WA Let us confess the faith of the church.

c 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 into hell. 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 INTERCESSION

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

WA You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

c hear our prayer.

WA The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

c hear our prayer.

WA Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

c hear our prayer.

WA Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

c hear our prayer.

WA Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this

congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
c hear our prayer.

WA Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,
c hear our prayer.

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

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
c And also with you.

SHARE THE PEACE OF THE LORD



Without shaking hands, share the universal sign of peace with your neighbors.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

c 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.

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
c Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (Detroit), #605 (*verses 1 & 4*)

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- 1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

c **Thanks be to God.**

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