



The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2020

9:00am

Announcements

Please remain seated through the service

Prelude

Apostolic 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: 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.**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

L: 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.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

L: 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.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

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

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Sue Lang

Reflection Hymn

Where Charity and Love Prevail

The Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith . . .

**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 the People

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

A brief silence.

L: 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 during this time of pandemic in which congregations
seek to find new ways to safely learn and connect in the faith.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: 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.

L: 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 national, state and local leaders
with patience and wisdom.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: 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.

L: O God of healing and mercy,
we ask your presence among those who serve
in the medical and scientific communities
during this time of pandemic that they might be strengthened
in their devotion to their work.
Uplift them when they tire, filling them with encouragement
and hope when they feel overwhelmed.
Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*).

Phyllis Boyer	Dorothy Brinkman	Brian Brooks
Ellen Brown	Christ's Lutheran	Mary Jane Fitzgerald
George Ford	Kevin Fox	Lester Fox
Evelyn Gerhart (Paul)	Paul Gerhart, Sr.	Tommy Green
Vicky Griffin	Jennifer Griffith	Tammy Griffith
Derek Heller	Tom Karwowski	Joe Lynn
Nora Lynn	Kim Mallery	Helen Nace
Katie Nace	Walter Orłowski	Wayne Reiss
Annabelle Reith	Andrea Reynolds	Chuck Roberts
George Roberts	Mary Roberts	Miriam Schaub
Larry Sweigart	Mark Wilkins	

The Families of Kevin Nace, & Joan Price

Our Military Personnel:

Nicholas Bitting, Trevor Brown, Cedric & Megan Crowder, Tyler Deen,
Chase Hanley, Corey Hanley, Cybil Krout, Josh McCarty,
Brittany Meschonat, Ian Paquette, Matthew Pscheid, Avery Sherman,
Elliot Stauffer, Tobin Stauffer, Christine Taylor, and Matt Toft

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: 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.

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

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.
Please share a gesture of greeting with those around you
(no contact).

Offering Prayer

P: God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

*This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.*

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 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.

Sharing of the Body & Blood of Christ



Post Communion Blessing

P: God of the welcome table,
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness
and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C: Amen.

Postlude

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

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