

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2020—9 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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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.

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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. **Amen.**

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and

unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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. **Amen.**

THE GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BIBLE READING- Genesis 50:15-21

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.

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

- [¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.
³He forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
⁴he redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;
⁵he satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶The LORD executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
⁷He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.
] ⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
⁹He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.
¹³As a father cares for his children,
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

BIBLE READING- Romans 14:1-12

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.

GOSPEL – Matthew 18:21-35

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

Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

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.

Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

MESSAGE- *Pastor Matthew Garavalia*

HYMN OF THE DAY- Beautiful Savior- Sung by St. Olaf Choir
(Virtual) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndUv80ALGps>

APOSTLES' CREED - (page 105 ELW)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

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

A brief silence.

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

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, **hear our prayer.**

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

Bring healing to those that are sick especially: Ken Kruse, Ashley Schmit, Dawson Gross, John Hansen, Jason Norring, Chris Stoltzenberg, Scott Olson, Rachel Grunst, Evan Parker, Ruth Polz, Tom Julian, Jamison Nestegard, Alice Michelson, Karen Grunst, and Steven Hansen. 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, **hear our prayer.**

God of the Gospel, we lift up our Missionaries: especially Andrew Ball and Members & Friends of Our Savior's: Nora Lilleberg, Dallas & Julie Luhmann, Dave & Necita Luhmann, Roger & Carolyn Lind, Tonia LaCour, Hunter Freimuth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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

LORD'S PRAYER (page 112 ELW)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

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. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN- Rise, shine, you people!

ELW #665

DISMISSAL

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

CHIMES & POSTLUDE

If you are interested in serving on the **altar guild**, please join us for an information and training session on **September 27th** directly following church.

An **open house bridal shower** for Rachel Johnson will be held on **Sunday, Sept 13**, at 12:00 (noon) in the fellowship hall. Please bring recipes to share. Rachel and Andrew Hesse will be married on October 3. The couple is registered at Target, Amazon and Crate and Barrel.

Cheesy Turkey Dinner with curbside delivery will be served up at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lakefield on **Wednesday, September 16th** from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Dinner includes a cheesy turkey sandwich, homemade cole slaw, baked beans, bag of chips, and a bar. Call ahead to place your order with Amy in the church office at 507-662-5718 on Monday, September 14th from 8:00-5:00. A freewill donation will be accepted. Orders will be delivered to your vehicle on the south side of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 604 Bush Street, Lakefield. Meal is sponsored by the Immanuel LWML.

Used Book Sale will take place on **September 17-19** at the Blue Building Jackson County Fairgrounds. Proceeds of the sale assist the Jackson County Libraries in Jackson, Lakefield and Heron Lake with supplemental funds for programs, materials, and other “extras” for the libraries. Face masks are required. For more information please see the flyer in the Concourse.

