

## The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠ September 6, 2020

**WELCOME!** *Our thought for today begins like this: Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. And Jesus' words in today's Gospel reading are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. In the Old Testament reading, the prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways. And in the Epistle reading, St. Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*



### THE PASTORAL GREETING

#### THE OPENING HYMN – “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” (Vss. 1-2)    LSB 816

- 1    From all that dwell below the skies  
      Let the Creator's praise arise;  
      Alleluia, alleluia!  
      Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
      Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.  
      Alleluia, alleluia!  
      Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 2    Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
      Eternal truth attends Thy Word.  
      Alleluia, alleluia!  
      Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore  
      Till suns shall rise and set no more.  
      Alleluia, alleluia!  
      Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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### THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

- P:    In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
C:    **Amen.**
- P:    O Lord, open my lips.  
C:    **And my mouth will declare Your praise**    *Ps. 51:15*
- P:    Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
C:    **Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**    *Ps. 70:1*
- P:    Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and to call upon him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as his people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking his grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C:    **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P:    Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C:    **Amen.**

P: Blessed be God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!  
C: **O come, let us worship Him!**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail. Remove from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
C: **Amen.**

### THE HYMN OF PRAISE – “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” (Vs. 3) LSB 816

3 All praise to God the Father be,  
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Whom with the Spirit we adore  
Forever and forevermore:  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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### ✠ THE WORD ✠

#### THE FIRST READING – Ezekiel 33:7-9, ESV

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### THE SECOND READING – Romans 13:1-10, ESV

*In this reading, St. Paul presents the obligation of Christians to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in the light of the future that God has in store for us.*

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to

avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE HYMN – "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring"**

*(Vss. 1 & 4)* **LSB 822**

- 1 Alleluia! Let praises ring! To God the Father let us bring  
Our songs of adoration.  
To Him through everlasting days Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise,  
Whose hand sustains creation. Singing, ringing:  
Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story  
Of our God, the Lord of glory.
  
- 4 Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto our triune God we sing;  
Blest be His name forever!  
With angel hosts let us adore And sing His praises evermore  
For all His grace and favor! Singing, ringing:  
Holy, holy, God is holy; Spread the story  
Of our God, the Lord of glory!

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### **THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 18:15-20, ESV**

[Jesus said:] "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **THE HYMN – "Bless Be the Tie That Binds"**

**LSB 649**

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.

- 2 Before our Father's throne We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear.
- 4 When here our pathways part, We suffer bitter pain;  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart, We hope to meet again.
- 5 From sorrow, toil, and pain, And sin we shall be free  
And perfect love and friendship reign Through all eternity.

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## THE MESSAGE

### ✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

#### THE HYMN – “May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill”

LSB 698

- 1 May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill  
And do on earth our Father's will  
As angels do above;  
Still walk in Christ, the living way,  
With all Thy children and obey  
The law of Christian love.
- 2 So may we join Thy name to bless,  
Thy grace adore, Thy pow'r confess,  
From sin and strife to flee.  
One is our calling, one our name,  
The end of all our hopes the same,  
A crown of life with Thee.
- 3 Spirit of life, of love and peace,  
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,  
Thy gracious help supply.  
To each of us the blessing give  
In Christian fellowship to live,  
In joyful hope to die.

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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave 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.**

## THE BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C: Amen.**

## THE HYMN – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**LSB 805**

1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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**✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠**

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