

## The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠ September 13, 2020

***WELCOME!** 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, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation to the world.*



### THE PASTORAL GREETING

#### THE OPENING HYMN – “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

LSB 803

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.
  
- 2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.
  
- 3 Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

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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, merciful judge, you are the 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.**

## 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 – Genesis 50:15-21, NIV

*After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. 'You intended to do me harm,' Joseph said, 'but God used this as an opportunity to good and save many lives.'*

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### THE SECOND READING – Romans 14:1-12, NIV

*The Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

[Paul wrote:] Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each

of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

(*V.ss. 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 18:21-35, ESV

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE HYMN – “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” LSB 788, Tune: Eventide**

- 1 Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we're unaware:
- 2 Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,  
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,  
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face  
That shows Your message ever new and near.
- 3 Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise,  
For words that speak at variance with deeds;  
Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways  
Unmindful of a broken brother's needs:
- 4 Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,  
That gives as Christ gave, never counting cost,  
That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”  
Assured that only what's withheld is lost.
- 5 Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,  
For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,  
For walls and wars that hide Your mercies vast  
And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:
- 6 Open our eyes to see Your love's intent,  
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;  
May thankfulness be days in service spent,  
Reflection of Christ's life and love and light.

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**THE MESSAGE**

**✠ THE RESPONSE ✠**

**THE HYMN – “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” Tune: Thompson**

- 1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me.  
“Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, “O sinner, come home!”
- 2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Pleading for your and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, Mercies for you and for me?  
“Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, “O sinner, come home!”
- 3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, Promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for me.  
“Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, “O sinner, come home!”

## 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 – “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

*(Vs. 1 & 4)*

#922

- 1 Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.  
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.  
Go, My children, with My blessing—You are My own.
  
- 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;  
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:  
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.  
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

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**✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠**

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