

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, confident of His grace and forgiveness to all who are penitent.

People: **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. 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 therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints through the gift of forgiveness, let us manifest our unity by extending the hand of peace. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9*

Pastor: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

People: **I have fled to you for refuge!**

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

People: **In Your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

Pastor: Enter not into judgment with your servant,

People: **for no one living is righteous before you.**

People: **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.**

Pastor: Deliver me from my enemies O LORD!

People: **I have fled to you for refuge!**

KYRIE

May be sung to LSB 943.

Kyrie eleison (KIH-ree-ay eh-LAY-ee-sohn): Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor: For peace in the world, for the health and well-being of the Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor: For the hungry, the homeless, the poor, the oppressed, and all who are in need, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor: For the richness of God's peace in our hearts, for peace within our homes and congregations, and that we may live in peace with all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor: For the guidance of the Spirit, for the strengthening of our faith, and for the courage to give bold witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, God of mercy. Remembering the faithful, who have loved and served the Lord and now rest from their labors, let us commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 50:15–21

(At the

death of their father, Jacob, Joseph reassured his brothers that he forgave them and recognized the hand of God at work in their lives.)

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you."' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL *Psalms 39:9, 19, alt.*

Pastor: Fear the LORD, you His saints,
People: **for those who fear Him lack nothing!**
Pastor: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
People: **but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

EPISTLE *Romans 14:1–2* (If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.)

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if 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. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Matthew 6:14*

ALL: **Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:21–35* (How often must I forgive my brother? How often has God forgiven you?)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹ 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?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ 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.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN “Father Welcomes” *LSB 605*

Refrain:

**Father welcomes all His children, To His family through His Son.
Father giving His salvation. Life forever has been won.**

Little Children, come to Me, For My kingdom is of these.
Life and love I have to give, Mercy for your sin. **Refrain**

In the water, in the Word, In His promise, be assured:
Those who are baptized and believe, Shall be born again. **Refrain**

Let us daily die to sin; Let us daily rise with Him,
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord, Live in the peace of God. **Refrain**

SERMON

CREED *Apostle’s Creed*

**C 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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Lord, grant that we not judge without mercy but forgive without limit, that we who have known the fullness of Your mercy in Christ also manifest a compassionate heart against those who sin against us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, grant to Your Church Your Spirit and power, that we be supplied with faithful pastors and church workers to serve us in Your name, and that we hear and heed the voice of Your Word and walk in holiness of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, grant to those who lead us in this nation and in all the nations wisdom and integrity, that they pursue what is good

and right and just according to Your Word and commands, and serve the common good. Deliver us from terror and threat, and give Your peace to the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, grant to the sick and all who suffer any affliction of body, mind, or soul the blessing of Your mercy, with forgiveness according to Your will, and Your presence and comfort to sustain them through the day of trouble. Hear us especially on behalf of those for whom our intercession has been requested, [*names*], and those we name in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, grant to the homeless, the widowed, the orphaned, and the unemployed Your strength to bear up under the weight of their trials and Your guidance to bring them to the places where their needs may be answered. Open our hearts to care for them and support them in their need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, grant to us grateful hearts that with our voices we offer You the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and with our tithes and offerings show forth our confidence in Your loving care and our desire to support the work of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Local concerns may be added here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

People: **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.**

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
People: **Amen.**

HYMN “One Thing’s Needful” *LSB 536*

One thing’s needful; Lord, this treasure, Teach me highly to regard.
All else though it first give pleasure, Is a yoke that presses hard!
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving, No true, lasting happiness
ever deriving.
This one thing is needful; all others are vain, I count all but loss that I Christ
may obtain!

Wisdom’s highest no-blest treasure, Jesus, is revealed in You.
Let me find in You my pleasure, And my wayward will subdue,
Humility there and simplicity reigning, In paths of true wisdom my steps ever
training,
If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine, The blessing of heavenly wisdom
is mine.

Nothing have I, Christ, to offer, You alone, my highest good,
Nothing have I, Lord, to proffer, But Your crimson colored blood.
Your death on the cross has death wholly defeated, And thereby my
righteousness
Fully completed; Salvation’s white raiments I there did obtain,
And in them in glory with You I shall reign.

Therefore You alone, my Savior, Shall be all in all to me;
Search my heart and my behavior, Root out all hypocrisy.
Through all my life’s pilgrimage, guarding and uphold me,
In loving forgiveness, O Jesus, enfold me. The one thing is needful;
All others are vain, I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!