



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 17, 2017

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Noisy Can Collection
for the Lutheran Disaster Relief fund;
100% goes to the hurricane relief effort**

CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy
endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

- P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (*A brief silence.*)
- Gracious God,
- C: **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.**

P: 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 \ddagger 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.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN “*O Day of Rest and Gladness*”

**O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness,
most beautiful, most bright:
on you the high and lowly,
through ages joined in tune,
sing, “Holy, holy, holy,”
to the great God triune.**

**On you, at earth's creation,
the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation,
Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious
the Spirit sent from heav'n;
and thus on you, most glorious,
a threefold light was giv'n.**

**Today on weary nations
the heav'nly manna falls;
to holy convocations
the silver trumpet calls,
where gospel light is glowing
with pure and radiant beams
and living water flowing
with soul-refreshing streams.**

**New graces ever gaining
from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining
to spirits of the blest.**

**We sing to you our praises,
O Father, Spirit, Son;
the church its voice upraises
to you, blest Three in One.**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION

P: 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.

C: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (*A brief silence.*)

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



FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis, the 50th chapter.

Realizing 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?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, '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. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?

Even 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. So have
no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little
ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking
kindly to them.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 103

R: LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

C: **you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.**

R: You have not dealt with us according
to our sins, nor repaid us according to
our iniquities.

C: **For as the heavens are high above the
earth, so great is your steadfast love
for those who fear you.**

R: As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions
from us.

C: **As a father has compassion for his
children, so you have compassion for
those who fear you, O LORD.**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans, the 14th chapter.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those 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.

Who 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. Some 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. Those 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. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why 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. For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew,
the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Peter 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?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.”

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, 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.

So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But 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.'

Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

“The Gift of Forgiveness”

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

**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.**

Refrain

**"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?**

**Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain***

Refrain

**"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**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. *Refrain***

Refrain

**"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 to the dead.**

**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 INTERCESSION

P: Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation. (*A brief silence.*) Good and gracious God, we pray for the church. Bless the ministries of congregations in our community (*here specific local congregations may be named*). Unite us in the proclamation of your life-giving gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Creator God, you spoke light into being,
you separated the waters, you formed the
dry land. Protect and enliven the
creation you so love, and make us willing
partners in its care. Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: God of the nations, you love all tribes, peoples, and languages. We pray for all who govern. Give them wise and generous hearts for those they serve.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Divine Healer, calm the anxiety of those who are wrongly accused, who suffer under crushing debt, or who are in prison. Reassure those who are lonely, impatient, brokenhearted, homebound, hospitalized, or ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for this assembly; for our guests and visitors, for newcomers to this community, for those who are certain and those who doubt, and for all who seek you in this place.
Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: We remember and give thanks for the faithful of every age who did not live to themselves but lived to you. Raise us with them on the last day. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

~ VIDEO DURING THE OFFERING ~

“Point To You”

by We Are Messengers

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

***We give thee but thine own,
whatever the gifts may be
All that we have is thine alone, a
trust, oh Lord, from thee.***

***May we thy bounties thus, as
stewards true receive,
And gladly as though blessed us, to
thee our first fruits give.***

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you that you illumine our
way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the
needs of others, and at the end bring all the
world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the
Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

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 and praise to the
Lord our God.

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

~ WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~

THE 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.

~ COMMUNION ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace
and mercy. The Lord look upon you with
favor and \ddagger give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “*Choral Benediction*”

**May the light of God shine on us today.
May the light of God shine on us today.
May it show us where to travel,
lead us back if we should stray,
May the light of God shine on us today.**

May the love of God live in us today.
May the love of God live in us today.
May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say,
May the love of God live in us today.

May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways,
May the peace of God be with us today.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**









































