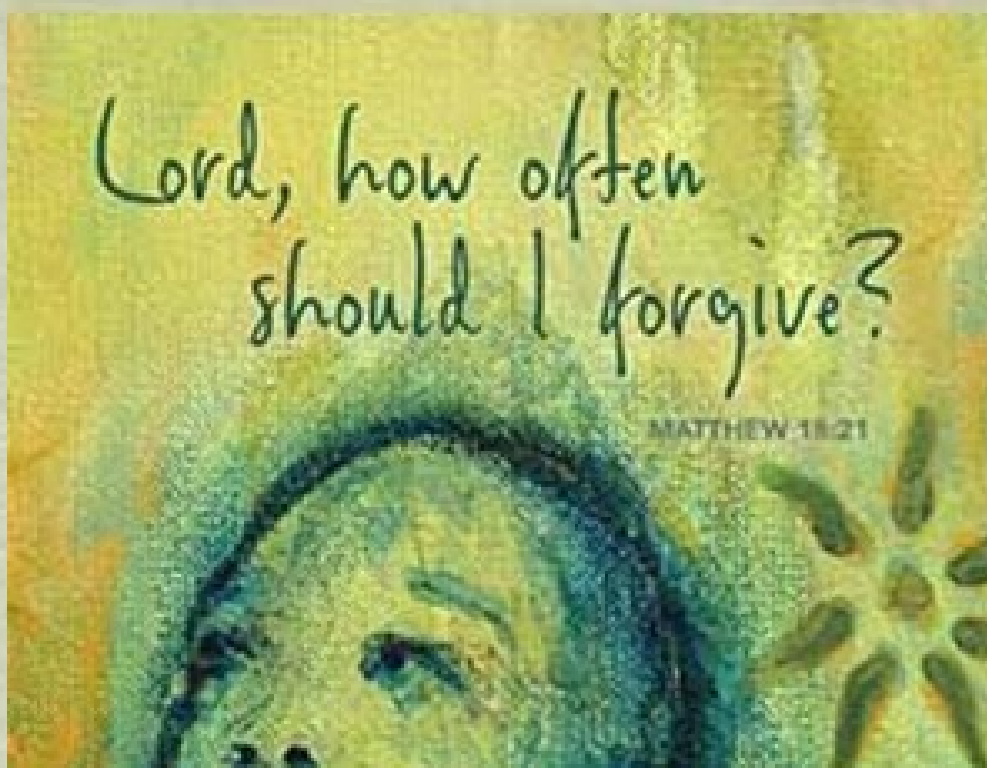
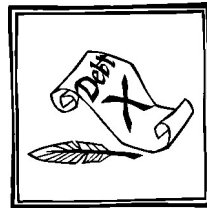


Lord, how often  
should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21







## The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Sunday, September 13, 2020

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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.*

### GATHERING

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God’s work in the world.  
**Amen.**

**OPENING MEDITATION HYMN“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
- 2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
- 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

**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**

Let us pray.  
O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible 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.  
**Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

A reading from Genesis.  
<sup>15</sup>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?” <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>‘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. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 103:1-13

- <sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- <sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—
- <sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;
- <sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
- <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- <sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
- <sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.
- <sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
- <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
- <sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
- <sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? At least three times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not more than seven times, but seventy-seven times."

forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So 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.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF MEDITATION                      “Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”**

1   "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"  
     you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
     but you alone can grant us grace  
     to live the words we say.

*(Continued on the next page.)*



- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
how trifling others' debts to us;  
how great our debt to you!
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, by your mercy reconciled,  
our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, alt.  
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## **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 THE CHURCH**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## **HYMN OF MEDITATION**

**“Rise, Shine, You People!”**

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered  
our human story; God in him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,  
with grace unbounded.
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,  
now are forgiven.
- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,  
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story  
of Jesus' glory.

*(Continued on the next page..)*

4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
God's new creation.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
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## OFFERING

*We give thanks to God for the gifts that God provides, and for the gifts that you share with the church. Offerings to the church may be sent through the mail, through automatic withdraw, or through the Tithe.ly app on our website.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord’s table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing.*

*Communion is will be received at your seats. Having received the elements as you entered worship, you will take the chalice, and when directed by the pastor, you will remove the bottom cover to receive the bread. The pastor will say “Body of Christ given for you,” and you will eat the bread. When directed by the pastor, you will remove the top cover to receive the wine or juice. The pastor will say, “Blood of Christ shed for you,” and you will drink the wine or juice.*

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.  
**Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and

grace of your children, give us grace, and you will strengthen us with your Holy Spirit, and bring us the blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Mothering God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.  
**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Shirley Stoltenberg	Jackie Snyder	Jeanette Olaughlan
Cindy Staebel	Jim Weibel	Sherri Westemeier
Arnie Lindaman	Ann Kuehl	Karen VanderHorst
Doug Olson	Jensen Spencer	Craig
Carol Judge	Michael Schafer	Gary
Michelle Weltzin-	Karen Muetzel	Jennifer
Trainor	Dixie Smith	Lois
Ron Mc Fate	Peyton Langebartles	
Dale Moore	Gary Goslee	



