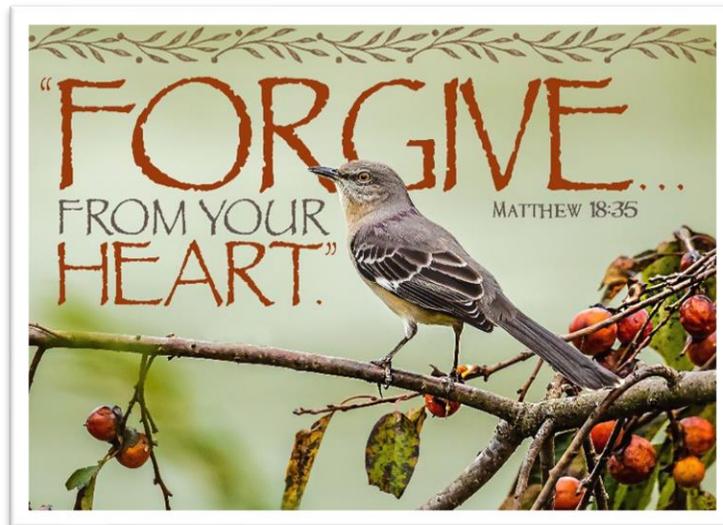


**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Sunday, September 13, 2020  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Thought:** There was a simple sentence that I came across that caused deeper reflection: “As followers of Jesus, we are expected to forgive others as we are forgiven by God.” If there are limits to forgiveness, then I guess we have to say there are people who are beyond God’s redeeming grace? Have patience with me, cries the man in the parable. So be it, but then you must forgive your brother or sister from your heart as well.



**Prelude – Lillian Pinkston**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Sharing of the Peace**

*Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Matthew 13:16*

**Call to Worship**

A: We have come into sanctuary,  
to worship the God of our mothers and fathers.

**C: Enter with your hopes, and your memories – and your concerns.**

A: For here we find the forgiving God, revealed by Jesus.

**C: Here we find the empowering God, poured out in Spirit.**

A: So let us give praise to the God who is not only here waiting –

**C: we give prayer and praise to the God  
who journeys with us on all our ways.**

## Gathering Music

### In Thee Is Gladness – First-Plymouth Church

<https://youtu.be/EE8N-BK7ojk>

### Holy Gospel – Matthew 18:21-35

*A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

[https://youtu.be/JcTr4Lwnp\\_I](https://youtu.be/JcTr4Lwnp_I)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> 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.**

## Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession

P: Giving and forgiving God, we are often quick and tenacious in asking for your patience and understanding for ourselves, while we too often fail to extend to others what we seek from you.

*Time of Silence and Reflection*

P: Help us open our hearts when –

**C: we demand immediate restitution from those whom we perceive to wrong us, and withhold forgiveness even when it is sincerely sought from us.**

P: Help us not to think more highly than we ought –

**C: forgive us when we take advantage of another's weakness and vulnerability, demand more than we need, or make it virtually impossible for others to correct their mistakes.**

**Purge our desire for vindication and dominance, and fill us with your spirit of forgiveness, which knows no limit.**

**We ask all this through Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

## Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**

## Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen and Amen!**

### **Music of Praise – Build New Bridges**

Wayne L. Wold – Trinity Lutheran Church

<https://youtu.be/VeDSfnMFt0o>

### **Prayer of the Day**

A: You demonstrate your power in a different way, O God –

**C: not through treachery or tyranny...not by making impossible demands or requiring base servitude.**

A: You demonstrate your power in a different way, O God – a way that goes against this world's expectations:

**C: Mercy is the hallmark of your reign, forgiveness your kingdom's catchword.**

A: Give us hearts of forgiveness, O God,

**C: even as you have washed our hearts clean with your great forgiveness. Even as you have put our sins out of your mind.**

A: Make us a people rich in forgiveness...generous in mercy.

**C: In Jesus name, we offer our heart to you. Amen.**

### **The Word *continued***

#### **Old Testament reading – Genesis 50:15-21**

*Joseph reconciles with his brothers.*

<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: (1-7) 8-13**

*Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**<sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—**

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**<sup>6</sup> The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

**<sup>8</sup> The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

**<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

## **Epistle reading – Romans 14:1-12**

*Accepting diversity in the community of faith.*

14 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**

**Children's Time – *Following the rules?***

[https://youtu.be/UYpX3\\_InSso](https://youtu.be/UYpX3_InSso)

**Homily – Pastor Barnes – *Father Forgive Them***

<https://youtu.be/sAosFCdwZM>

**Music of the Day – *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive***

<https://youtu.be/HixCQUirJxg>

## 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: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Offering/Offertory Prayer**

**C: You have gathered us into your family. We offer these things to you—our riches. And we request another sort of wealth, O Father. Make us rich in forgiveness. Then we will be rich, indeed! Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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 to the Lord our God.

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

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest!**

**The Words of Institution**

**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.**

**Lamb of God**

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God you take way the sin of the world; grant us peace,  
grant us peace. Amen.**

***Distribution Directions***

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC – We Are Called**

arr. by Mark Hayes – Luther College Cathedral Choir

<https://youtu.be/rZtPYS76ZMA>

**Additional Music – Here is Bread**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9nOWL30EP8>

## Post Communion Prayer

A: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Benediction – Numbers 6

## Closing Music – Lillian Pinkston

Other music: – How Deep the Father’s Love  
<https://youtu.be/dLDGVI8D5UU>

## Dismissal

A: Being forgiving in our hearts is the only way we can truly serve you!  
**C: Thanks be to God, for you have shown us the way.**

