

**Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, September 6, 2020**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Thought:** Are we looking for a way in or a way out? Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh, spent some "whale time," and said, "okay I will find a way in," so the people might change. Peter asked Jesus how often he should forgive a person in the wrong – seven times? Jesus gave the incredible way in – seventy times seven! The court like drama in our gospel is not to win the case against, but to win the case of grace and forgiveness **for** someone in need.

**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: God in community, three persons in dynamic unity,  
whose peace arises from truth and wisdom:

**C: We bring you our praise this day.**

A: God out ahead of us, leading us to new visions of engaging grace  
for each other and for the world:

**C: We bring you our praise this day.**

A: God dwelling among us, you who call us into a new creation  
and new ways of community:

**C: We bring you our praise this day. Let us worship our God.**

**Gathering Music – *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* – Fernando Ortega**

<https://youtu.be/FU1u6Lmz27A>

**Invocation**

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of Confession**

P: Even as we invite your presence, O God, we recognize that your holiness confronts us in our humanness.

Our awareness of you reminds us of ways we have fallen short of being the persons, and communities, you have called us to be.

**C: Yet, our awareness of you reminds us of your love for us and for all. So hear us now, as in the silence of our hearts we own who we are –**

*A time of silent reflection*

P: Speak to us in kindness, O God.

**C: Forgive us in our human frailty, gracious Christ. Renew us in our relationships with you, and with one another, powerful Spirit. For you are the One who can do new things. Amen.**

## **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.**

## **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 – Love God, Love Your Neighbor** (Dale Sechrest)  
<https://youtu.be/EzaYC6eyKqI>

## **Prayer of the Day**

A: We give you thanks, O God, for each other and for your presence with us.

**C: We celebrate the experiences of community that build us and others up.**

A: We especially seek your guiding hand and wise spirit when we find ourselves at cross purposes with one another.

**C: Help us to be grateful, and not fearful, of honest encounters that enlarge our lives. May we not fail to listen for your Spirit's stirring our lives for the good through the voices of others.**

A: We give thanks for each other's prayers that accompany our days.

**C: We give thanks for shared laughter and tears, the signs of the rich fabric of true community. Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.**

## **The Word**

### **Old Testament reading – Ezekiel 33:7-11**

*The prophet's responsibility to warn the people.*

<sup>7</sup> So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup> If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup> But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup> Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup> Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

## Psalm 119:3-40

*Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.*

- <sup>33</sup> Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I will observe it to the end.
- <sup>34</sup> **Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.**
- <sup>35</sup> Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.
- <sup>36</sup> **Turn my heart to your decrees,  
and not to selfish gain.**
- <sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;  
give me life in your ways.
- <sup>38</sup> **Confirm to your servant your promise,  
which is for those who fear you.**
- <sup>39</sup> Turn away the disgrace that I dread,  
for your ordinances are good.
- <sup>40</sup> **See, I have longed for your precepts;  
in your righteousness give me life.**

## Epistle reading – Romans 13:8-14

*Let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

## **Holy Gospel – Matthew 18:15-20**

*Reconciliation in the community of faith.*

<https://youtu.be/kIydwIWC5Us>

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

<sup>15</sup> “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Children’s Time**

<https://youtu.be/2b7YeD-bCxE>

**Homily – *Looking for a way in or a way out?* – Pastor Barnes**

<https://youtu.be/rJyhZsJgID4>

**Music of the Day – “My Hope Is Built” – Norton Hall Band**

<https://youtu.be/EVE-xXFDOwg>

### **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: Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. 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**

A: Heavenly Father, you have gathered your people together,

**C: from different families – from separate places,**

A: to be one family –

**C: with you our Father...with Christ our brother.**

A: Increase the gifts here offered,

**C: even as you increase your family.**

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.

## Closing Prayer

A: You bid us be community, O merciful Lord –

**C: a community commissioned by Jesus Christ, your Son – a community bound together with love as our bond.**

A: Guide us to be responsible for one another –

**C: even as you have taken responsibility for us.**

A: Make forgiveness the hallmark of our community –

**C: for you are the Father of forgiveness.**

A: Build us up, together, in the true faith –

**C: for faith will grow with mutual encouragement.**

A: And remind us that we are not alone when we gather in Jesus' name,

**C: for he is with us – even here – even now.**

**We give thanks in Jesus name. Amen.**

## Benediction from Numbers 6

### Closing Music – Lillian Pinkston

Other Music – <https://youtu.be/dLDGVI8D5UU>

How Deep the Father's Love – Fernando Ortega Lyrics

## Dismissal

A: Loving neighbor as self, we reach out to others in service.

**C: Thanks be to God!**



*...how often should  
I forgive?  
"Not SEVEN times,  
but, I tell you,  
SEVENTY-  
SEVEN  
times."*

*Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV*