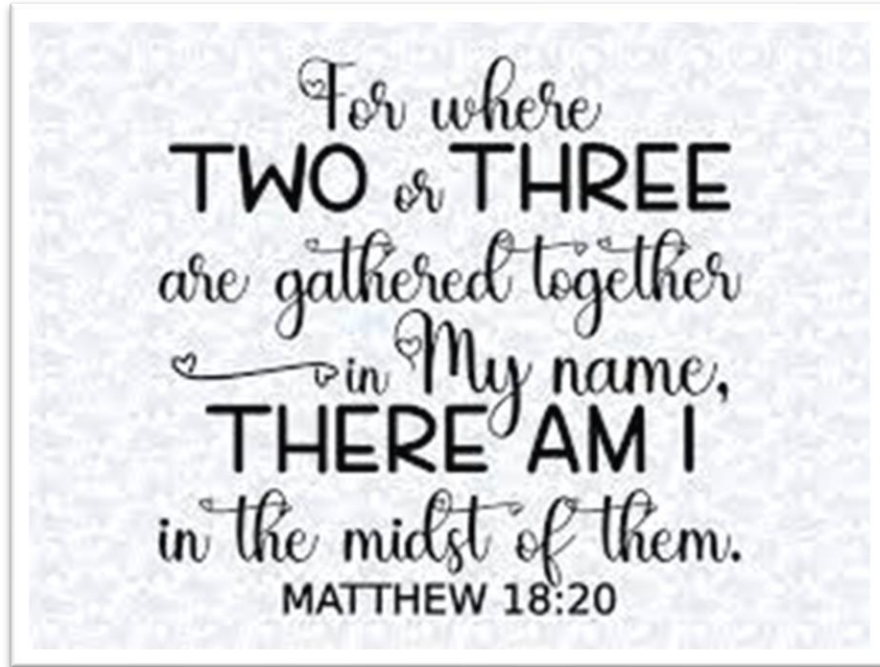


**Sunday, September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

To Be Reconciled with one another in love



Thought: Loving God your commands are simple. You ask that we love each other, and do no harm to each other. It might seem at first black and white, but ultimately our world is filled with gray. Help us to find the grace in the gray that we will be stronger together than apart.

Prelude – Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

P: May love be in our hearts this day. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Call to Worship

A: Jesus said, "Where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

C: And so we gather today in Christ's name.

A: We come to praise God, and to be renewed and strengthened in our faith.

C: We come to remember God's simple truth for us: in all things, may we love one another.

A: Come, let us worship God!

Gathering Hymn – "Oh For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" ELW #886 (Lee)

<https://youtu.be/vFMAIhxnJrE>
by Reawaken Hymns

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: you have revealed the ways of justice,
Yet we fail to follow you.**

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise – "Take My Life That I May Be" ELW #685 (Darlene)

<https://youtu.be/HjQJ1HEZ4Wk>

by Vineyard Worship

Prayer of the Day

A: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

C: 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.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Ezekiel 33:7-11

A warning with hope

⁷So 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. ⁸If 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. ⁹But 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.

¹⁰Now 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?” ¹¹Say 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 119:33-40

Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with ^l all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise ^l to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

Epistle reading – Romans 13:8-14

https://youtu.be/gzNykkzAv-c?si=1y2WamYP_Tlw3c4O

Owe no one anything, except to love one another

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The 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.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides 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; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, 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

<https://youtu.be/ekRTxtHZ5IA?si=YS-U2K0TNNc-gr3e>

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

Reconciliation in the community of faith

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“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. ¹⁶But 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. ¹⁷If 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. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, 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. ²⁰For 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 of God Time

<https://youtu.be/1gEZPWZWDpY?si=H8m7LN7psGSakj8w>

Message – Reconciliation or a Shortcut?

<https://youtu.be/woJVQxITarY?si=RNT5Z9587SyyHkw9>

Hymn of the Day – “God, When Human Bonds Are Broken” ELW # 603

https://youtu.be/j0_Re7ZHd_c

by GA Music

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: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

A: Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick (*especially*). Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment (*especially*). In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith (*especially*). May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Hymn – “In The Singing” ELW #466 (Judy)

<https://youtu.be/WLdd17vHx9s>

by drolas

Offertory Prayer

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

C: from different families...from separate races,

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.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: 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.

Preface

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

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Consecration

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.

Distribution

Communion Music – Lillian Pinkston

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: Jesus Christ, you have promised to be with us when we gather in your name –

C: a promise you have kept in this meal...at this table.

A: We take your presence with us from this place, O Christ.

C: Use us. Give us the will and the ability to gather all people into this community.

A: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6 – Pastor

Sending Hymn – “Amazing Grace” ELW #779 (Sue)

<https://youtu.be/Obp-9BEZe1c>
by Pentatonix

Dismissal

A: Go in peace with the love of Christ in your heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston

