

LIFE IN THE GOSPEL
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9-13-20

Theme: A Life of Graciousness- Romans 12:14-21

† GOD CALLS US †

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 145

Leader Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

ALL I will praise your name forever and ever.

Leader In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL Amen

OPENING PRAYER

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

† GOD CLEANSSES US †

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people,

let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

ALL **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor Almighty God, in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I declare with joy, “You are forgiven!” In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit!

ALL **Amen**

SONG OF PRAISE
“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see**

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As Long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
His grace has brought me safe thus far
His grace will lead me home**

**Yes, When this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven’s joy and peace.**

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun

† GOD SPEAKS WITH US †

FIRST READING
Romans 12:14-21

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another.
Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.
Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath,
for it is written:
"It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
²⁰ On the contrary:
"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL
Matthew 5:38-48

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'
³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person.
If anyone slaps you on the right cheek,
turn to them the other cheek also.

⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt,
hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹ If anyone forces you to go one mile,
go with them two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who asks you,
and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said,
‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good,
and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

⁴⁶ If you love those who love you,
what reward will you get?
Are not even the tax collectors doing that?

⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people,
what are you doing more than others?
Do not even pagans do that?

⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:
The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen**

BRINGING OF OUR BLESSINGS

With Thanksgiving in our Offerings

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

MESSAGE:

A Life of Graciousness

Romans 12:14-21

CLOSING SONG

“Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us”

Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With your own unsparing hand.

-Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
Gladly, freely of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor you have given
To our humblest charity
In your own mysterious sentence,
“You have done it all to me.”
Can it be, O gracious master,
That you deign for alms to sue,
Saying by your poor and needy,
“Give as I have giv'n to you”?

Lord of glory, you have bought us
With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces,
With your love our love renew.

† GOD BLESSES US & SENDS US OUT †

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

ALL: Amen!

THE DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God