

Welcome to worship at Faith Lutheran Church

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020

Worship Service

Print = Pastor or Worship Leader

Bold = Congregation

♪ = Sing



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

LIGHT CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

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.

A word spoken, a voice heard,

A dream revealed, a mission received.

God calls, again and again.

God beckons us to follow.

To love, to serve.

To give, again and again.

God invites us to embrace the lonely,

To feed the hungry, to tell the Good News of Jesus.

To love and serve, and to sing praise all our days.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray together,

God, our guide and our protector, as we gather today in this sacred space, open our minds and souls and hearts that we may be inclined to hear the gentle direction of your Spirit in our lives. Help us, we pray, to follow you as you lead us to the place you have created for us. Forgive us, where we have fallen short of your will for us and renew our troubled spirit with the assurance of your love and mercy.

As a little boy offered five loaves and two fish to feed a multitude, we gather in this time of worship to offer our gifts to our God and one another. With God's blessing, may our gifts be transformed as water and bread, justice and peace. Let us rejoice in the sacred love we share with humanity.

In the name of Jesus. Amen



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together the prayer of the day:

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.

WORD

The First Lesson is from Genesis in the 50th chapter.

Genesis 50:15-21 OT Page #52

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

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

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The psalm for today is **Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13** will you please read it responsively with me.

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

[Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.]

**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

The Second Lesson is from the 14th chapter of **Romans**

Romans 14:1-12 NT Page #170

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

1Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 2Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3Those 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. 4Who 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. 5Some 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. 6Those 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. 7We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8If 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. 9For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10Why 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. 11For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." 12So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



**Alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 18:21-35 NT Page #20

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

21Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25and, 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. 26So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28But 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.' 29Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31When his fellow slaves saw what

had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35So 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.

MESSAGE

OFFERING

We also encourage those who are able to continue to make their faithful, generous offerings to FAITH. We know that some will be unable to do this, especially if they lose their jobs or work hourly in an industry that has been hard-hit by this situation. If you are able those offerings can be mailed to the church.

PRAYER

Then enter into a time of prayer, sharing in prayer requests that you have received and praying for those specifically.

CLOSING

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.



BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

PEACE

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

EXTINGUISH CANDLE

