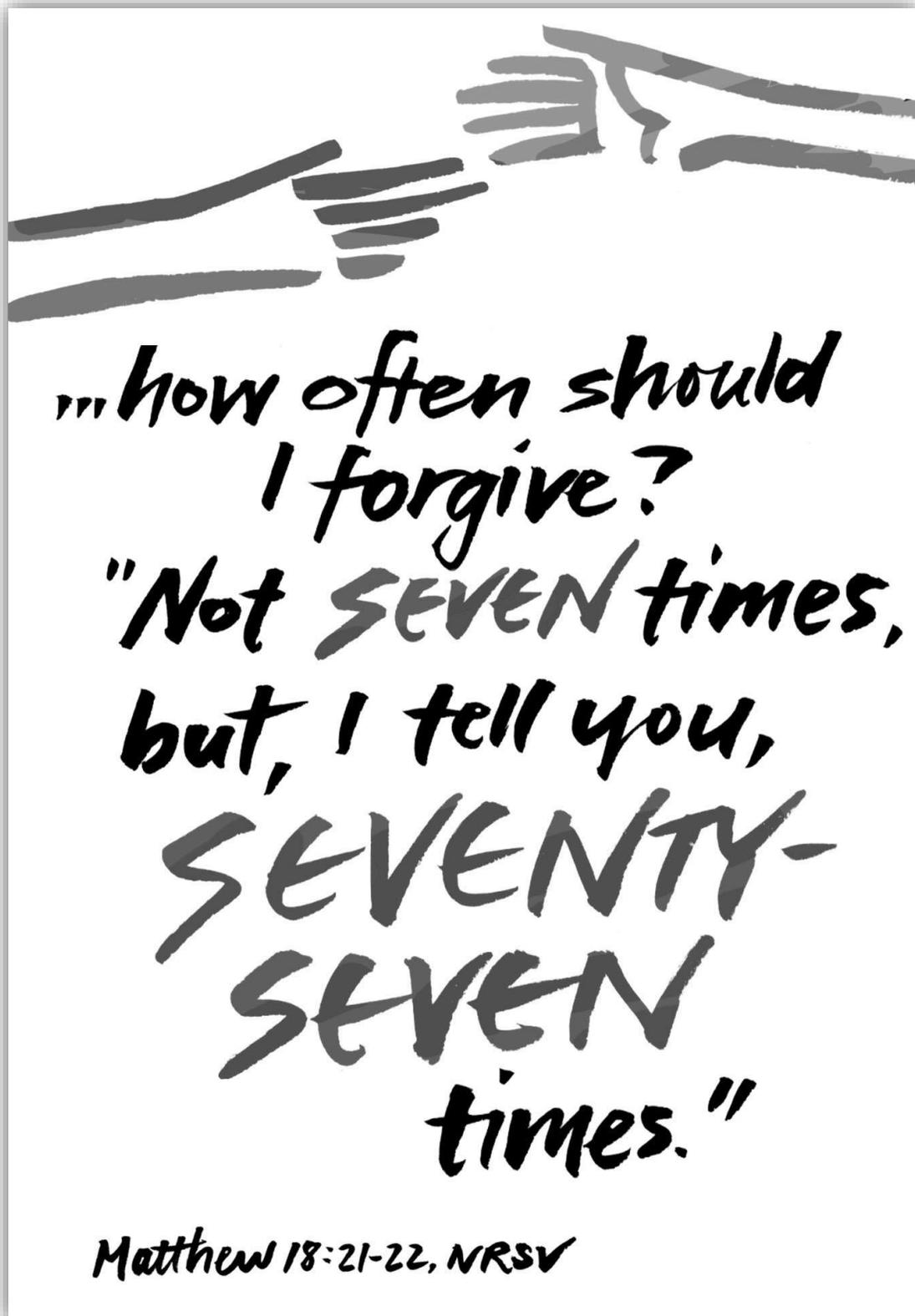


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



"...how often should
I forgive?"

"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

Pentecost 15

September 13, 2020

One in Christ Lutheran Parish

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshipping with us this morning.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who excites us with the mission of the church - to be witnesses and share the "good news" to all people.

EMPOWER AND SEND US!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION -

God of mercy, God of grace, we acknowledge that yours is a love which freely gives without any strings attached.

An unconditional love.

Jesus tells us that those who wish to be his disciples are to place no limits, no conditions on their mercy or their love.

Forgiveness without limits.

Jesus indicates that when we refuse to forgive those in our debt, we hinder the gift of God's grace and forgiveness from entering our own lives

God of mercy, God of grace, we confess that we forget to love and serve you as we ought, as people made in your image and likeness.

Touch hardened hearts with your goodness, we pray, and remind us that forgiveness is one of the most precious gifts that we can offer one another.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

We rejoice because of God's great gift of love to the world - Jesus Christ - who came not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned. *(based on John 3: 17, 18)*

Thanks be to God!

OPENING SONG *“When Morning Gilds the Skies”*

*When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised! When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call: may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*When mirth for music longs, this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised! God's holy house of prayer
has none that can compare with "Jesus Christ be praised!"*

*No lovelier antiphon in all high heav'n is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised!" There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard: oh, Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let all of humankind in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound: may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!" God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore shall Jesus Christ be praised!*

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

APOSTOLIC 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.

SHARING THE PEACE – *Give somebody a call today.*

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *“Glory to God...”*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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 ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 50:15-21

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.

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 14:1-12

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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

²³“For 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.**

CHILDREN SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Randy Baldwin

SONG OF THE DAY “*Canticle of the Turning*”

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain *My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. Refrain*

*From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. Refrain*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. Refrain*

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 THE COMMUNITY

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

BLESSING

THREE-FOLD AMEN

SENDING SONG *"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"*

*Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.*

*Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.*

*As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.*

*Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.*

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

*Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithely
(electronic giving).*

Postlude



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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

Deep Waters of Forgiveness

Churches have different practices around baptism. In some churches, a small bowl holds just enough water to trickle a few drops over the head. In others, the bowl is wider and the water is splashed with the whole hand. In yet other churches, the person is fully immersed in a font large enough for them to go all the way underwater. Sometimes the water stays in the bowl, sometimes a bit splashes out, and sometimes the whole area around the font gets wet. But no matter the amount of water used, there's always more where it comes from. God's waters of forgiveness run deeper than we will ever know.

The waters of baptism are so deep that even a few sprinkles cover a lifetime of falling short. We are forgiven time and again for a myriad of sins. And because the weight of sin has been lifted from us, we are free to extend such forgiveness to others.

In fact, our faith depends on it. In the Lord's Prayer, our petition for forgiveness is directly tied to our own willingness to forgive others: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Thankfully, we are not expected to conjure up such forgiveness on our own. We draw from the endless supply of divine reserves. Where we, and Peter, might have difficulty forgiving a mere seven times, Jesus reminds us that his kind of forgiveness can be measured on an exponential scale.

While our capacity for forgiveness may be limited, Jesus' well of forgiveness is deep enough for all people and all matters of sin. When we find ourselves struggling to extend forgiveness to others, we return to the baptismal font. This is an overflowing well of love. Drawing from this water, we draw from the limitless supply of forgiveness.

Remembering our baptism, we are reminded not only that we are forgiven, but that we, too, are agents of forgiveness in the world.