

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## AS WE GATHER

Forgiveness is filled with questions. How often must I forgive? Is there a limit to the grace of forgiveness? What is the connection between God's forgiveness to me and my forgiveness to others? The answer to these questions lies in Christ. As our heavenly Father has forgiven us, so do we forgive one another in His name. This forgiveness is clearly and beautifully shown in the example of Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers and then forgave them because of God's mercy.



## ✘ PREPARATION ✘

### HYMN

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

#851

- 1 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 the\_unthankful and the evil  
With Your own unsparing hand.
- 2 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.
- 3 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”?

4 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.

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## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for self-examination.*

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, confident of His grace and forgiveness to all who are penitent.  
People: **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## ☩ WORD ☩

## HYMN

“In Thee Is Gladness”

#818

1 In Thee is gladness  
Amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given  
The gifts of heaven,  
Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest,

Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trusts Thee surely  
Has built securely;  
He stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining  
To see Thy shining,  
Dying or living  
To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

2        Since He is ours,  
          We fear no powers,  
Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
          He sees and blesses  
          In worst distresses;  
He can change them with a breath.  
          Wherefore the story  
          Tell of His glory  
          With hearts and voices;  
          All heav'n rejoices  
In Him forever: Alleluia!  
          We shout for gladness,  
          Triumph o'er sadness,  
          Love Him and praise Him  
          And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

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**KYRIE**        *Kyrie eleison (KIH-ree-ay eh-LAY-ee-sohn): Lord, have mercy.*

Pastor:        In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:**        **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor:        For peace in the world, for the health and well-being of the Church, and for the  
unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:**        **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor:        For the hungry, the homeless, the poor, the oppressed, and all who are in need, let  
us pray to the Lord.

**People:**        **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor:        For the richness of God's peace in our hearts, for peace within our homes and  
congregations, and that we may live in peace with all people, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:**        **Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor: For the guidance of the Spirit, for the strengthening of our faith, and for the courage to give bold witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor: For the Lord to nourish our souls with the blessed food of His Word and Table and for grace that what we here receive we may keep in holy lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, God of mercy.  
Remembering the faithful, who have loved and served the Lord and now rest from their labors, let us commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

#814

1 O bless the Lord, my soul!  
Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless His name  
Whose favors are divine.

2 O bless the Lord, my soul,  
Nor let His mercies lie  
Forgotten in unthankfulness  
And without praises die!

3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;  
'Tis He relieves thy pain;  
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses  
And makes thee young again.

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### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *Genesis 50:15–21* (At the death of their father, Jacob, Joseph reassured his brothers that he forgave them and recognized the hand of God at work in their lives.)

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup> So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup> So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Lector:            This is the Word of the Lord.

People:            **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**    *Psalm 39:9, 19, alt.*

**Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

**EPISTLE**      *Romans 14:1–12* (If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.)

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup> One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. <sup>5</sup> One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup> The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup> For if 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. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. <sup>10</sup> Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup> for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." <sup>12</sup> So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Lector:            This is the Word of the Lord.

People:            **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**        *Matthew 6:14*

**Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**    *Matthew 18:21–35*    (How often must I forgive my brother? How often has God forgiven you?)

**Pastor:**            The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**People:**            **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup> And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup> And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup> So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

**Pastor:**            This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**            **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

#609 v.1-4

- 1        Jesus sinners doth receive;  
          Oh, may all this saying ponder  
          Who in sin’s delusions live  
          And from God and heaven wander!  
          Here is hope for all who grieve:  
          Jesus sinners doth receive.
  
- 2        We deserve but grief and shame,  
          Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
          Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
          Here our ills have perfect healing.

Firmly in these words believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

3 Sheep that from the fold did stray  
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;  
Weary souls that lost their way  
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh  
In His arms that they may live:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

4 I, a sinner, come to Thee  
With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me;  
Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

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**SERMON** "God Meant It For Good!" (Genesis 50:15-21)

**CREED** *Nicene Creed*

**People:** **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

(After each petition the pastor prays,  
Lord, in Your mercy, and the people respond, **hear our prayer.**)

### **☩ SACRAMENT ☩**

#### **PREFACE**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

#### **PROPER PREFACE**

**Pastor:** It is our duty, our delight, and our privilege to give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty God, everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. At all times and in all places, we join the faithful song of old in witness to Your mercy forgiving all our sins, and to Your love that has welcomed every sinner into Your presence. As He has given Himself to us in death and risen in triumph over the grave, give us life in Christ that we live here in the obedience of faith until we live in Your presence forevermore. With saints and angels, patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, we join in their unending hymn of praise, singing:

#### **SANCTUS**

**People:** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:** (p.161 LSB)  
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
**Hosanna. Hosanna.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

#### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

**People: Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**      *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;  
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

Pastor: O Lord, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**LORD’S PRAYER**      *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

### **PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**People:** Amen.

### **DISTRIBUTION AND DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“I Lay My Sins on Jesus” #606  
“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” #649

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Gracious Lord, for the sake of Your holy name, forgive us, Your children, whom You have redeemed through the precious blood of Your dear Son. Deal graciously with us, Your servants, not according to our weakness and guilt but according to Your love and goodness. Grant to us forgiveness, peace, and the gift of a clear conscience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

### **BENEDICAMUS**

**Pastor:** Let us bless the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

### **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

**People:** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN** “Now Thank We All Our God” #895

1 Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers’ arms  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessèd peace to cheer us  
And keep us in His grace  
And guide us when perplexed  
And free us from all ills  
In this world and the next!

3 All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

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## **DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

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