

SUNDAY WORSHIP PENTECOST 15
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

PRELUDE: Collin Crowl

GATHERING & WELCOME

(Stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

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

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.
We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.
We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.
We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.
Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *"Holy Is The Lord"* – Chris Tomlin
Crossroads Band

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.

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.

(Sit)

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

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.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

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.

(Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus | Christ the righteous;* your sins are forgiven on account | of his name. *Alleluia.* (1 John 2:1, 12)

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

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.

(Sit)

SERMON: "Forgive Us, As We Forgive" – Pastor Hellstedt

(Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Our Father, We Have Wandered"



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

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

Lord God, you call us to trust in you when chaos surrounds us. Awaken in the church a longing for your reign of peace, steady our hearts in times of affliction, and grant us patient endurance until we see the dawn of the coming of justice. Help us to take notice of the needs of all who suffer throughout the world, that we might respond in compassionate action. Grant us the faith we need to walk where you lead us, especially this Saturday, doing God's Work, Our Hands!

Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer!**

Lord God, we pray for those whose daily work entails peril or danger, and that those whom they serve might know security, safety, and peace. We especially lift up to you all our local municipal workers engaged in emergency medical, fire and police duties. Continue to be with those members, relatives and friends of this congregation who are serving in the Armed Forces. Watch over, protect, and guide them and then, bring them all safely home.

Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer!**

Lord God, you call us to be faithful preachers and hospitable leaders who will teach your people. Be with Bishops Eaton & Curry, Pastor Hellstedt, the Stephen Ministers, the Congregational Council, the leaders, facilitators, helpers and members of our music ministers, education classes, Sunday school and the staff of P.O.P. Bless these people with the Spirit's power to serve the people of God with compassion, understanding, knowledge and love.

Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer!**

Lord God, we pray for our congregation as we come together again in these uncertain and difficult times. Supply us generously with grace for our life together. We pray for students and teachers as they undertake a challenging and unique school year. We pray for those struggling with unexpected adversity and hardships. And we pray for an end to the harmful effects of the Covid-19 virus.

Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer!**

Lord God, you call us to gather under your protective care those among us whose hearts are troubled and fearful, that they might find comfort and strength in this community's care. We lift up to you those names listed in Hear Our Prayer for healing, hope, and direction, along with those celebrating joy and thanksgiving, and especially to those who we now name silently in our hearts. *(pause)*

Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer!**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE:

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please turn and share a non-contact greeting of peace!

(Sit)

OFFERING ANTHEM: "Close Every Door" – Andrew Lloyd Webber
Scott Uddenberg and Collin Crowl

(Stand)

OFFERING PRAYER:

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE:

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

Amen.

(Sit)

Please follow the ushers' directions to the Communion stations and remove your mask. A wafer will be dropped into your cupped hands.

COMMUNION MUSIC – Collin Crawl

(Stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: – Collin Crawl

Ushers will dismiss by pews, beginning at the back. Please proceed directly out of the church building.

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