

15th Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2020
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Pastor Pat Schutz

Welcome to worship from wherever you are! It is good to be with one another as the Holy Spirit unites us in praise and worship of our God.

Putting our worship online means we have to have copyright permission for our liturgy and music. We have copyright license # 43101 from Augsburg Fortress and A-724291 from One License.

GATHERING

We begin in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

Confession and Forgiveness

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Song: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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

A reading from Genesis, the 50th chapter

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

Word of Life, Word of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103: 1-2, 8-13

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹**you will not always accuse us,**
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
 nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹**For as the heavens are high above the earth,**
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹²As far as the east is from the west,
 so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³**As a father has compassion for his children,**
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter
Glory to you O Lord.

Peter 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.

Sermon

Song: Where Charity and Love Prevail

Apostle's Creed

Let us profess our faith together using the words of the Apostle's 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 Intercession

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

Gracious God, You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Provide weather that will aid in fighting the wildfires

in the western states. Bring healing to the scorched land, and areas affected by recent storms. Renew and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are our refuge and strength; you have bound us together in a common life. In this world's and our nation's conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen to your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual self-control and respect. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Bring healing to bodies, communities, and economies that are devastated by Covid 19. Console all who suffer loss in the wildfires and protect all who are in danger from poor air quality. Sustain firefighters and all emergency personnel who respond. We also pray for those we name before you now: Family and friends of Carol Sczygelski and Ward Nelson, for Andy, Gabriella, Marilyn, Elvera, Marion, Laurie, Karleen, Joy, Chad, Tom, Steve, Carol, Kristin, Bruce, Dawn, Dan, Debbie, Jeff, Jerry, Liam, and for those we name in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith and give you thanks for the life of Carol and Ward. As you equipped him and all of your saints, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. 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.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
 You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
 Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,

nourish us with this rich food and drink,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

We pray as Jesus has 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.

Benediction

God who is both Mother and Father, Creator of the cosmos, Jesus the Christ, in whose light we find life, and the Holy Spirit, who draws us into the dance of the Trinity, bless you + and lead you into the way of truth and new creation. **Amen.**

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