



Salem Lutheran Church
The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 2020

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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"Living Christ's Love"

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Evangelical Lutheran Worship - Holy Communion

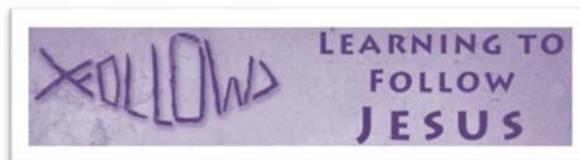
⌘ GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,
- C:** **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**
- P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- C: Amen.**



Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.
 Music: Welsh Traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

⌘ RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST 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.

A: The First Reading is from the 50th Chapter of Genesis . . .

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

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



PSALM 103:1-13

A: *Please join in praying Psalm 103 responsively ...*
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

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

A: who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



THE SECOND 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.

A: The Second Reading is from the 14th Chapter of Romans . . .

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those 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. Who 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.

Some 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. Those 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.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why 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. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th Chapter ...

C: **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?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Preston Fields



By Your Hand You Feed Your People

1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
 Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
 In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952 Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text & Music © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.
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⌘ RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

THE APOSTLES' CREED

A: *Let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed ...*

C: **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

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

(A brief silence)

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, guide us to listen to our community and reach out to those yearning for your Gospel. *Lord, in your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

A: The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. *Lord, in your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

A: Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom during this election season may we vote with those who are the most vulnerable in mind. *Lord, in your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

A: Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. *Lord, in your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,*

C: hear our prayer.

A: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you especially

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today. *Lord, in your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

A: Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care especially **Alexis, Pastor Jane, Pastor Tom, Olivia, Jim, Patti** and those we say aloud or hold in our hearts. *Lord, in your mercy,*

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

OFFERING

To Give Your Offering Electronically, please text "Salemlutherangive" to 77977

OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.

C: Amen.

⌘ GATHERING AT GOD'S TABLE

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

- P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P:** 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P:** *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*
C: **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.**

*Please refer to Pastor Preston's email/letter
"Communion in Exceptional Times."*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P:** Come to the banquet table
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

LAMB OF GOD *(Spoken responsively)*

- P:** Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.
C: **Have mercy on us.**
- P:** Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.
C: **Have mercy on us.**
- P:** Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.
C: **Grant us peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW Hymn 465

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



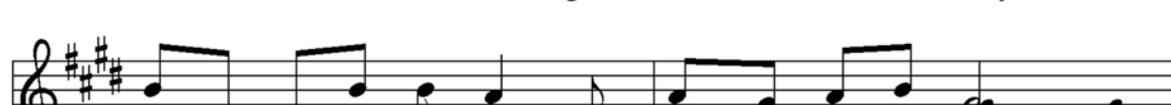
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



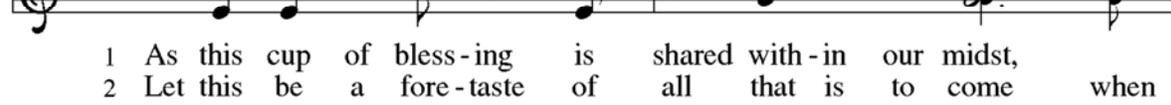
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,



2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: *Let us pray ...* We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



⌘ **GOING FORTH TO “Live Christ’s Love”**

DEPARTURE BLESSING

- P:** May God give you grace never to sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good, and grace to remember the world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. Almighty God, Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C:** **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

- A:** Go in peace. Remember the poor.
- C:** **Thanks be to God.**



Worship Leaders . . .

Pastor Preston Fields
Connie Seraphine, Saturday Assisting Minister
John Seraphine, Sunday Assisting Minister
Pastor Mack Patrick, Saturday Sound
Ken Reinhardt / Sunday Sound

Musicians . . .

Michael Graddy, Piano
The Graddy Family

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Carol Howe McLain in honor of all her children



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