

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 13, 2020



Online Service

Kviteseid and Big Bend Lutheran Churches

Pastor Kristine Isder

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.

Welcome and announcements

Opening Hymn: Word of God, Come Down on Earth ELW #510

** Call to Worship:

P: People of God, bless the Lord, *Ps. 103:1*

C: bless God's holy name.

P: For as the heavens are high above the earth, *Ps. 103:11*

C: so great is God's steadfast love for us.

** Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins to God who forgives and saves.

C: Gracious and loving God, *Rom. 14:7-9;*

you lived for us—we have not lived for you. *Matt. 18:28-30*

You have forgiven us—we have not forgiven others.

You have loved us—we have not loved ourselves nor have we loved one another.

Take pity on us and forgive us, God.

Help us to forgive. Help us to live for you.

Help us to love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: People of God, our sins are forgiven. *Rom. 14:7-9;*

God is merciful and gracious and is Lord of us all. *Matt. 18:27, 33*

Reconciled to the God who loves us,

let us live and love through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Greeting

P: The grace 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

C: 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.

Lesson: 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.

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-13

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

C: ²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

L: ³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

C: ⁴who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

L: ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

C: ⁶O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

L: ⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

C: ⁸Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

L: ⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

C: ¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

L: ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

C: ¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

L: ¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

Lesson: Romans 14:4-12

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.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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 gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death ELW 452

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 Intercession

Each portion of the prayers ends with:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The prayers are concluded with these words:

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

C: Amen.

Sharing The Peace

Now is the time to share Christ's love and forgiveness with one another. Let the Christ in you greet the Christ in another with signs of peace and reconciliation.

P: The peace of Christ, be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

**** Offering Prayer**

P: O God, we thank you for these gifts. *Matt. 18:33;*
Multiply them, and enable the work of love *Rom. 14:7-9*
and the righteousness of your kingdom in the world. We thank and praise you. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**** Charge**

P: Go in peace, practice forgiveness,
live the gospel, in the name of Jesus, our Lord.

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn: Go, My Children, With My Blessing ELW #543

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