
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 13, 2020 - Time after Pentecost

“Lord, how often should I forgive?”

[Matthew 18:21]



WELCOME

We're glad you chose to worship with us.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

PRELUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

Wayne Wold

BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

When our faith is tested
and we stumble,
forgive us.

When our feet stray from your path
and we wander,
forgive us.

When our neighbor is in need
and we pass by,
forgive us.

When we let the voices of this world
drown out your whisper,
forgive us.

When we don't allow love
to draw us to your feet in repentance,
forgive us. Amen.

May God, in Christ, bring to our confession
the cleansing waters of forgiveness.
And that, having been washed,
we might know Christ's refreshment and release. **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

GATHERING SONG

ELW 834

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!

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.**

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.

Sit

READING

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph reconciles with his brothers

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.

A The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

SHEPHERD'S CHORUS

Kyrie Eleison

Larry Olson

Chorus:

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church,

For the unity of all;

For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,

Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Chorus**

That we may live out your impassioned response

To the hungry and the poor.

That we may live out truth and justice and grace,

Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Chorus**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
For friends and family.
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Chorus**

For Your Spirit to guide; that You center our lives
In the water and the word;
That You nourish our souls with Your body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Chorus**

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READING

Romans 14:7-9

When brothers and sisters judge each other

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.

A The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

Loving God, bless these/our children and students. Be with them and help them as they begin a new year of learning, teaching, growing, and serving.

May their minds and their pencils be sharp; may their lunches never be forgotten at home; and may their erasers help them to remember that mistakes are “okay” – in fact, they are often the most important part of learning.

Gracious and loving God, bless these backpacks. Make them strong for the job of helping our children to learn. May their straps never break; their padding never give out; and their zippers never jam.

May they never be forgotten in strange places; may the burdens in them be light; and, may the bodies that bear them

be strong, and growing, and whole, and blessed – ever blessed, by your love. In the name of the great Teacher at whose knee we are all students. **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

A parable of forgiveness

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.”

- A The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

SERMON

Stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Come with Joy

ELW 482



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

SUNG CREED

We Believe

**We believe in God the Father,
 Maker of the universe,
 And in Christ His Son, our Savior,
 Come to us by virgin birth.
 We believe He died to save us,**

**Bore our sins, was crucified,
Then, from death, He rose victorious,
Ascended to the Father's side.**

Chorus: Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all. (Sing 4 times)

**We believe He sends His Spirit
On His church with gifts of power.
God, His word of truth affirming,
Sends us to the nations now.
He will come again in glory,
Judge the living and the dead.
Every knee shall bow before Him,
Then must every tongue confess:**

Chorus: Jesus, Lord of all, Lord of all. (Sing 4 times)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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 (*especially*). 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. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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,

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.

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. 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

Stand as you are able

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O God before time, O God at the end,
we delight in the splendor of your universe.

Daily we praise your continuing creation,
and we give thanks for your people.

We glorify you, now and forever.

O God of the covenant, O God of the church,
we come as your children to this table,
and we give thanks for your presence
in congregations around the world.

We praise you, now and forever.

You came as Jesus, our wisdom, our guide,
embodying forgiveness, granting us grace,
setting us free, dying for sin,
and alive for the life of the world.

We worship you, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 Jesus and led by the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Sit

ALL teachers are invited to stand

PRAYER FOR TEACHERS

For the marvels of your creation,

We praise you, O God.

For the opportunity to explore and study,

We praise you, O God.

For those who guide us: for teachers and mentors,

We praise you, O God.

Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. **Grant teachers the gift of joy and insight, and students the gift of diligence and openness, that all may grow in what is good and honest and true. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways. In the name of the great Teacher at whose knee we are all students. Amen.**

Stand as you are able

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

ELW 543

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

Be the light of Christ. Proclaim the good news.
Heal the sick. Share your bread with the hungry.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Michael Burkhardt
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise