



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 13, 2020

901-373-4486

www.ilcmemphis.org

@ilcmemphis



AS WE GATHER

Forgiveness is filled with questions. How often must I forgive? Is there a limit to the grace of forgiveness? What is the connection between God's forgiveness to me and my forgiveness to others? The answer to these questions lies in Christ. As our heavenly Father has forgiven us, so do we forgive one another in His name. This forgiveness is clearly and beautifully shown in the example of Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers and then forgave them because of God's mercy.

WELCOME

HYMN "Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing" *LSB 847*; tune *LSB 914*

- 1 Christ, our human likeness sharing, Heaven's love on earth portrayed;
Christ the Shepherd, tending, caring, In His death our ransom paid:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Be Your life in us displayed.
- 2 Hear the word that Christ has spoken, Help the weak, the hungry feed;
See the pow'rs of darkness broken, Sinners pardoned, captives freed:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Help us meet our neighbor's need.
- 3 Christ, in ev'ry congregation Build Your temple, stone by stone,
With Your word as firm foundation For a faith matured and grown:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Make in us Your Gospel known.
- 4 Come, O living Christ, renew us, As of old in wind and flame;
With the Spirit's pow'r endue us, Servants of Your saving name:
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Christ whose kingdom we proclaim.

© 2003 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012963.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☐ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence for self-examination.

- P: Let us confess our sins to God, confident of His grace and forgiveness to all who are penitent.
- C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.**

HYMN “How Wide the Love of Christ” *LSB 535*

- 1 How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race
 But holds our one humanity Within its broad embrace.
- 2 How long the love of Christ! Its patience will not cease
 Until this broken world is bound In everlasting peace.
- 3 How high the love of Christ! Beyond all thought it soars,
 And yet upon our passing lives Unmeasured mercy pours.
- 4 How deep the love of Christ, Descending to a cross!
 He bears within His wounded hands All human pain and loss.
- 5 All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height,
 Whose length and breadth fill time and space With endless life and light!

© 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012963.

SALUTATION

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, You have rescued us from our bondage to sin and given us a new life and identity in Baptism. Grant us Your grace that we live in peace with all people and show to those around us the same forgiveness that You have shown to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 50:15–21*

(At the death of their father, Jacob, Joseph reassured his brothers that he forgave them and recognized the hand of God at work in their lives.)

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Romans 14:1–12*

(If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.)

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For 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. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:21–35*

(How often must I forgive my brother? How often has God forgiven you?)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” *LSB 843; tune LSB 524*

- 1 “Forgive our sins as we forgive,” You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.
- 2 How can Your pardon reach and bless The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let Old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light Your cross reveals The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to You!
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

© Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012963.

SERMON “Sunday Is Here, but Monday Is Coming...” Reverend Gregory Prauner

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING and CONNECTION CARDS

OFFERTORY “Lord of All Good” *LSB 786*

- 1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
 Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.
 Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
 That our whole life is offered to Your will.
- 2 We give our minds to understand Your ways;
 Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great design;
 Hearts with the flame of Your own love ablaze—
 Thus for Your glory all our pow’rs combine.
- 3 Father, whose bounty all creation shows;
 Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
 Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:
 To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

© Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012963.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord, grant that we not judge without mercy but forgive without limit, that we who have known the fullness of Your mercy in Christ also manifest a compassionate heart against those who sin against us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Lord, grant to Your Church Your Spirit and power, that we be supplied with faithful pastors and church workers to serve us in Your name, and that we hear and heed the voice of Your Word and walk in holiness of life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Lord, grant to those who lead us in this nation and in all the nations wisdom and integrity, that they pursue what is good and right and just according to Your Word and commands, and serve the common good. Deliver us from terror and threat, and give Your peace to the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Lord, grant to the sick and all who suffer any affliction of body, mind, or soul the blessing of Your mercy, with forgiveness according to Your will, and Your presence and comfort to sustain them through the day of trouble. Hear us especially on behalf of those for whom our intercession has been requested, [*names*], and those we name in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Lord, grant to the homeless, the widowed, the orphaned, and the unemployed Your strength to bear up under the weight of their trials and Your guidance to bring them to the places where their needs may be answered. Open our hearts to care for them and support them in their need. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Lord, grant to us grace that none of us approach Your Table with unrepented sin, and help us to receive with faith and for our benefit the richest gifts of Your Son’s body and blood in this Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, grant to us grateful hearts that with our voices we offer You the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and with our tithes and offerings show forth our confidence in Your loving care and our desire to support the work of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**

Local concerns may be added here.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

HOLY COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. Grant us grace, heavenly Father, that we not think too highly of ourselves and too little of our neighbor, but give welcome in Your name to all people and rejoice because You have filled us with Your redeeming love in Jesus Christ, our Lord, with whom, in whom, and through whom all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, both now and forevermore.
C: **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*
C: **Amen.**

HYMN “Where Charity and Love Prevail” *LSB 845, verses 1, 5, and 6*

- 1 Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
 Brought here together by Christ’s love By love are we thus bound.

- 5 Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son;
 As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.

© 1960 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012963.

POSTLUDE

Organ – Kris Vocal leader – John Leeseberg

Service adapted from *Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4*. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.