

Worship Folder



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Grace Lutheran Church

September 12-13, 2020

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

(the assembly stands as you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Our sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen.

(the assembly may be seated)

GATHERING HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

(the assembly stands as you are able)

GREETING

P: The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

P: Lord have mercy

C: Christ have mercy

P: Lord have mercy

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Unison*

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.

(the assembly may be seated)

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

(Response after first and second reading)

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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.

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.

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

[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—**

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

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

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

⁶**O LORD, you provide indication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

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

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

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

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

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

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

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

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.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

³Those 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. ⁴Who 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. ⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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. 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. ¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(the assembly stands as you are able)

Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are forgiven on account of his name. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

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.

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.”

P: The Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(the assembly may be seated)

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY “By Your Hand You Feed Your People”

(the assembly stands as you are able)

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 power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(Response after each petition)

P: Let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

(the assembly may be seated)

OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY PRAYER

(the assembly stands, as you are able, as the gifts are brought forward)

P: Let us pray...Blessed are you, O God,

C: maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for your earthly 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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

P: It is indeed our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...*(concluding)*... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...in your church without end.

C: Amen.

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

(All who desire to receive Christ's presence are invited to participate in the Eucharist)

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

(the assembly may be seated)

REFLECTION MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(the assembly stands, as you are able)

P: Let us pray...We give you thanks, gracious God,

C: **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. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P: Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen.

(the assembly may be seated)

SENDING HYMN

“Rise, Shine, You People!”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(the assembly stands, as you are able)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYERS

Charlotte Werth, Hannelore Duenkel & Family (Charlotte Werth's niece), Dorothy Hansen, Alecia Lewis, Don Furze, Larry Nelson, Marge Weber, Vicki Piontkowski, Michele Amelotte, Bethany Popour, Joanne Nicholls, Gordon Hansen, Deb Nitchman's Family, Kay Zinsli, Diane Prevost, Tammy Furze, Harold Kissau, Jim Malaski, Emma Nelson, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Ann McMullen, Genie Diamond, Ann, Eric Steinke, Laura Bleau, Hazel Werblow, Sharon Anderson, Laura Hyatt (Kristin Rich's partner), Rob VanCleave, Donna Schafer, Becky, Jodi Kennedy Dinnan, Stephanie Bradford, Charlotte Barnard, Jamie Shipman, Barb Agius, Betty Kelly, Maria Shelton, Emily Cross, Liz, Lucas David, David Delano (David's Dad), Edna Delano, Joseph Hansen, Scott Coddington, and Cody Gustin.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer concerns received by the church office by Tuesday each week will be included in the coming weekends bulletin. Please do have the person's permission for inclusion and realize it is published online, so more than our congregation will know about it.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given to the glory of God.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In observance of our covenant with the LARCC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Congregational UCC) parishes of Alpena, we pray each week for a specific ministry of one of the 5 LARCC parishes. This weekend we pray for the Homebound Parishioners at St. Paul Lutheran Church. We also pray for this week's Synod Prayer Partner: Peace Lutheran Church, Sparta.

SOCIAL - PHYSICAL DISTANCING IN WORSHIP SERVICES - A REMINDER

The social - physical distancing we set up in the sanctuary are for people to be in the center of the center pews and along the wall in the side pews. The tape on the pews marks a place to sit, with your back against the tape. Seated like this allows people to pass up and down the aisles and be about 6 feet from anyone in a pew. Thank you for observing this and caring for others with your actions. As we continue to endure this pandemic and try to stay safe, I know we want everyone to be as comfortable as possible in worship. THANK YOU. PASTOR TOM.

FELLOWSHIP - 10:30 AM ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

We will gather on Zoom at 10:30 am on Sunday morning for our on-line virtual Coffee Hour Fellowship. Find out how the week went for fellow church members. The Zoom connection info is sent out in a separate email. Looking to see many of you there. For any questions on Zoom, contact Pastor Tom.

ADULT CE BEGINS 21 DAY EQUITY CHALLENGE CLASSES

With the beginning of the United Way Equity Challenge to grow in our understanding of equity of all types, we will center our September classes around what has struck us each week from our readings and resources. Then how do we live out our faith in light of this knowledge. See you at 11:30 on Sunday morning on Zoom. If you need any information on using Zoom, please contact Pastor Tom.

CHRIST IN OUR HOMES

Devotionals for the next quarter of October - December are available in the office lobby. If you are not venturing out yet, phone the office and a copy will be mailed to you.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office is open Tuesday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. - noon. We ask that you please wear a mask when in the building. Please log in on the sheets as you enter the Office Lobby. Please also log out as you exit the building, noting the areas of the building that you were in.

LITTLE FOOD PANTRY - THANK YOU!

Thank you for your food donations for Grace's Little Food Pantry. It is being used and we are so happy to help people in this time of need. Want to mention that we have no refrigeration and if your items require it, we just can't accommodate. We are also looking for donated items that are quick and easy. Things that are going quickly are small cereals, apples, oranges and bananas, mac and cheese, small puddings, canned beef stew and Ramen Noodles. -- Blessings, Mary Lappan

21 DAY EQUITY CHALLENGE FROM UNITED WAY

Our Joe Gentry as the Executive Director of United Way of Northeast Michigan is bringing the 21 Day Equity Challenge to the community and area.

The Challenge is: you (along with your friends, family, fellow workers and neighbors in Northeast Michigan) commit to deepening your understanding of, and willingness to confront racism for twenty-one consecutive days.

Every morning of the Challenge, you'll receive an email "prompt" with readings, videos and/or podcasts. You are encouraged to spend ten to fifteen minutes each day with the material.

The Challenge begins on September 8th and runs through September 29th. Register at the link below to begin receiving daily prompts on Tuesday, September 8th.

<https://www.unitedwaynemi.org/register-21-day-equity-challenge>

DO YOU NEED A FACE MASK?

Several church members have been making face masks and some are available for church members. Please call the office and let us know if you would like one. We will get one to you.

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 119 W. Dunbar St., Alpena, MI 49707

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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