



ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Guided by the Spirit, we share the love of Jesus
and walk with our community.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, September 13, 2020

We gather this Sunday, September 13th, around Word (Bible readings, sermon) and Sacrament (Baptism or Holy Communion) together as a family of faith. This week Jesus offers us a teaching and helpful reminder on forgiveness. We easily toss this word around in the church and in our daily lives.

We hear the word almost every Sunday as we thank God for the forgiveness of our sin in parts of the liturgy. Today Jesus teaches with the use of a parable (a story with a hidden meaning) by talking about a king who forgives the debt of a man in the city. This man, in turn, refuses to forgive someone who owes him money and then is condemned. It is just like all of us today in receiving the forgiveness of God, and then refusing to forgive ourselves or others

We aren't condemned, but only loved and urged to receive grace upon grace for ourselves. And, once we realize how forgiven we are, we can then forgive others. This is the Pentecost season and we pray for the Holy Spirit to move among us to help us forgive ourselves and others all the while being open to receiving forgiveness ourselves. Let us rejoice today that we have been forgiven from sin and loved more than we know.

May we all experience a blessed worship service, Pr. Doug



Introduction

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

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis-played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
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Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God, **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✠ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.**

Word

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.

15 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?" 16 So 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. 18 Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 20 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. 21 So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

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

- 1 Bless 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—

- 3 who 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;
- 5 who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 O Lord, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 You 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;
- 9 you 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.
- 11 For 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.
- 13 As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

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.

1 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 2 Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3 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. 4 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.

5 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. 6 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.

7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 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, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 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. 11 For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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.

21 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?" 22 Jesus 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. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 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. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 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.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 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. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



Sermon

As we gather for this special day of worship, outdoors, here at St. Andrews, let us remember our namesake Andrew, the Apostle of Jesus. Andrew is mentioned by name 12 times in the New Testament. He is the first one called by Jesus along with his brother Peter, to come and follow the Lord. In the Orthodox tradition, Andrew is known as the "First Called" and the name Andrew in Greek is Andreas! It comes from Greek meaning man, or manly as one having courage.

According to John, Andrew is the one who brings the boy with fishes and loaves to Jesus! Also in John, Andrew gets called first, then "first thing", says the Bible he goes and tells Peter and they come to Jesus! That's our work as well to "first thing" tell others about Jesus. And when we share the love of Jesus with others aren't we bringing confirmation of the forgiveness of our sins?

It is the crux of the whole Christian faith, I believe, to know, deeply, "from the heart" that God forgives. I have heard it said that God "forgets!" Either way we are forgiven, and all of this forgiveness is from the Cross. Because Jesus lived, died and rose again for the forgiveness of sins we are free! And, I believe, when we are free we can free up ourselves with self-forgiveness and the forgiveness of others.

The story Jesus is telling today has to do with a person who is forgiven by another, and then fails to forgive someone who owes him money! He has received his forgiveness but does NOT pass that on to one who owes him. Aren't we like that? We know in our heads that God has forgiven us, but this forgiveness Jesus talks about today is "from the heart!"

This is the key, we are forgiven from the very heart of God and God expects the same of us. To forgive, to forego being angry, hurt, or sad over what someone else did or said to us. When we forgive them it is freedom for our soul, not them. When we forgive someone we are letting go of the past pain, anger and hurt that just drags us down.

You may have heard of a woman by the name of Eva Kor. She was imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps in 1944 from Romania. She talked about a very deep emotional wound in her heart from her experience that had left her broken in "heart, soul, and spirit!" She championed forgiveness for her captors saying "personal forgiveness was healing for her and left her feeling "whole inside!" She was always asked about this forgiveness and she would answer (from online interview at willradio.tv.online) and said with a question first "Don't I deserve to be free from what they have done to me?" She said giving forgiveness renewed her spirit.

Today, let's open our hearts (18" down from the head, btw) to receive the forgiveness of God, and share that with others. It will leave us feeling "free" and renewed in our spirits!

Amen!

Peace be with you, Pastor Doug

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

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 (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 (especially). 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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,

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

Sharing of the Peace - "Namaste"

Offering Prayer

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. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord 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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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

Joined together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught:

**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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

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 the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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

Amen.

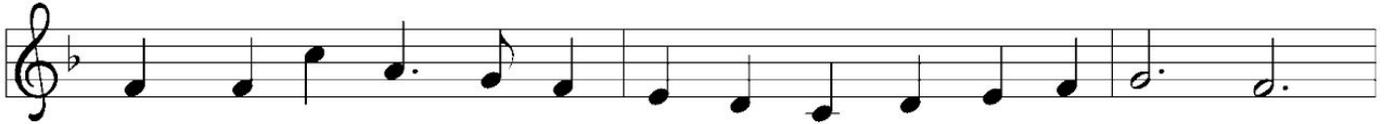
Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Families on the Prayer List

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Holtman (Thelma)
Mr. Jason Hunger, Griffin and Phoenix
Ms. Amanda Hunter
Mrs. Susan Hahn Johnson

Those with Ongoing Special Need of Prayer:

Jerid Edwards, great nephew of MJ Lynch
Ruth Tingle
Wheeler Elementary School

Remember to Pray for Nursing Home Residents and Shut-Ins:

Lynn Bigelow Alton Dahl Thelma Jones Penny Kalk Martha Larson
Norma Petraits David Royer David Schmalz The Harrison

Remember to Pray for those Serving in our Armed Forces:

Michael Joseph Jerry Shake



Calendar

- **Sunday, September 13** Outdoor Worship 9am
- **Sunday, September 13** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- **Monday, September 14** Zoom Staff Meeting 10am
- **Tuesday, September 15** Newsletter items due to Kelli
- **Wednesday, September 16** Laundry & Friends 4:30-6:30pm
- **Thursday, September 17** Zoom Council Meeting 6pm
- **Sunday, September 20** Re-gathering in person Worship 9am
- **Sunday, September 20** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm

Announcements

Remember:

- Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00am began September 6.
- Outdoor worship on September 13
- Laundry and Friends are seeking volunteers. Please call MaryLee.
- Reach out if you are interested in the digital service on DVD.
- Joyce Yockey has now taken over the emailed Prayer Chain.
- Greater Indy Habitat seeking volunteers for a build in September - see our website for info
- The Storehouse is still accepting donations.
- Rotary Club is collecting books for prisoners - see Phil and your email for more info!