

Day 5

**GENEROSITY
IN FORGIVENESS**

MATTHEW 18:21-35

*Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost*

September 13, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C: Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAISE, THANKSGIVING

867

In Thee Is Gladness



1 In thee is glad-ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my
 2 Je - sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the
 death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; he can



true re - deem - er art. Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou
 change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his



break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly has built se - cure - ly
 glo - ry with heart and voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es



and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
 in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
 glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



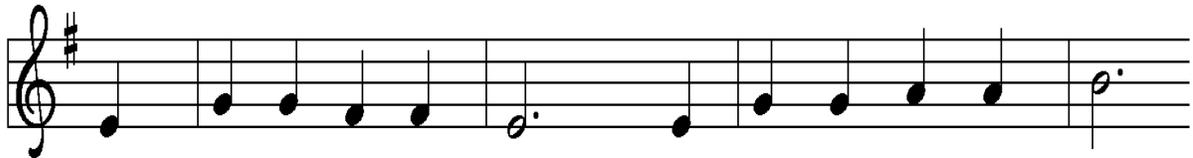
to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
 and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

***Kyrie**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

***Prayer of the Day**

P: We pray in your name.

C: AMEN!

First Reading: Exodus 14:19-31**pg. 76**

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.' ²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Responsive Psalm--Psalm 103:8-13**pg. 681**

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.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**pg. 198**

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

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: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

The Rev. Valerie Ann Strickert

Sermon Song

“Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

#605

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive 605

1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart;
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;

but you - a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987, alt.
Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press

DETROIT
C M

APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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 the People

*(Please respond: **hear our prayer.**)*

***Lord's Prayer**

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:
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**

Benediction

C: AMEN

Rise, Shine, You People! 665

1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.

our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the

us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
 Music: Dale Wood, 1934-2003
 Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House

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P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Devotional

GOSPEL MESSAGE

September 13, 2020

LECTIONARY 24

A World without Scarcity

We can easily remember the times in our lives when someone has been generous to us—whether by giving us a second chance financially or by pouring their time and energy into helping us succeed. Even the smallest moment of generosity can become a memory of great significance to us, one that brings joy and hope. Yet on a daily basis it can be easy to forget such moments of generosity when the world around us is filled with messages of scarcity. We are told that there is not enough—not enough money, jobs, resources, time, or even love—to go around.

Peter's question in today's gospel about how many times he ought to forgive someone is grounded in this kind of thinking. Faced with Peter's fear of scarcity, Jesus' response reveals his own confidence that there is always more love and more forgiveness to give. Jesus' words to Peter are grounded in his faith in an infinitely loving God whose mercy knows no limits. This kind of generosity is reflected in Jesus' parable when the king forgives a debt that would have been impossible to pay back. The king's action in the parable calls us to respond to the needs we see around us for forgiveness, for assistance, or for the use of our gifts with a generosity that comes from God.

When we gather as a Christian community for worship, we proclaim God's generous outpouring of love on us throughout history and our own lives. We come to hear Jesus respond to the narratives of scarcity around us with a narrative of abundance and generous giving—the narrative of his own life. When our time together ends, we are sent out to continue writing that story into the world around us through the generosity God has inspired in us.

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Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara Anderson, Chris Anderson, Bob, Janet Davies, Johan DeVries, Donna, Doug & Mary Ann, Florence Fay, Andrea Grushka, Kayla, James Kolkoski, Dorothy Kowaleski, Jim McKnight, Tim Palmioli, Richard, Lorraine Stevens, Tom Sutherland, Eugene & Marge Walz Jeremy Webb and Linda, Brianna & Eric.

Worship Update from Pastor Anne – With Jane's broken foot, she's recorded the music, so it's going to be easier to do worship from home this weekend and next. Therefore, no communion from the parking lot.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulelong/>

You may also watch the recorded service on YouTube using the link below.

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHG7oj6Tb9WhTZZvcNzu2ow>