

Grace Lutheran Church

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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2020



*...how often should
I forgive?
"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."*

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

Preparing for Divine Service

As you prepare for God's action in your life today, set aside the busy-ness and distractions of your everyday routine. We invite you to

- in your Bible or Hymnal, read through today's appointed psalm: **PSALM 103:1-12**
- Review today's Scripture readings in the bulletin
- Focus on the Lord in prayer. Sample prayers are on the inside front cover of the hymnal, or feel free to use our usual pre-service prayer:

Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

*Please feel free to participate further in this modified service
by reading aloud the lines in bold marked for congregational participation*

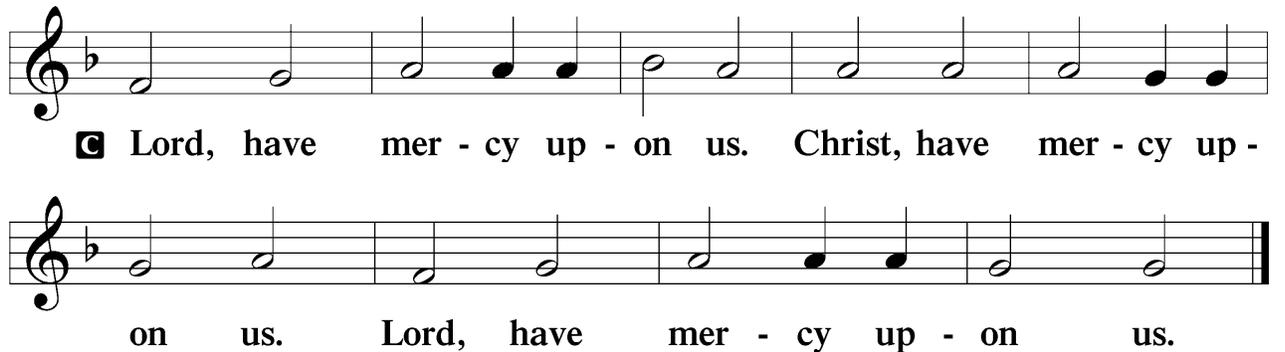
Enter not into judgment with your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.



Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*

I have fled to you for | refuge!

Kyrie



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, You have rescued us from our slavery to sin and given us a new life and identity in Baptism.

C **Help us to rejoice in Your grace and live by it so that we show to those around us the same forgiveness that You have shown to us;**

P through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The 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. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why 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; ¹¹for it is written,

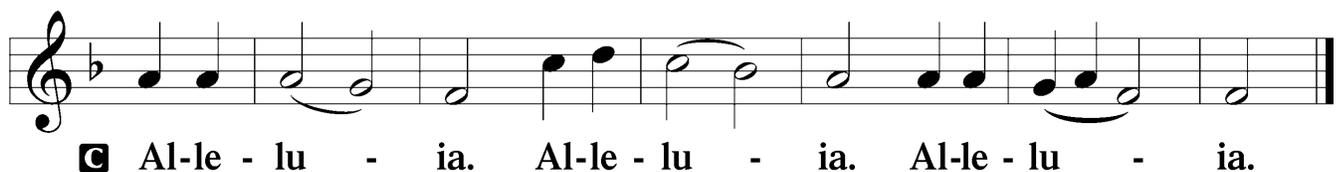
“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sermon Hymn	“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”	LSB 843
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Sermon

“To Forgive, Be Forgiven”

Matthew 18:21–35

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

Closing Collect

- P In Your grace, O Lord, teach us not to think too highly of ourselves and too little of our neighbor.
- C **Inspire us to always give welcome in Your name to all people and rejoice because You have filled us with Your redeeming love in Jesus Christ, our Lord,**
- P 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.**

Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



■ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn	“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”	LSB 649
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Sending

- P Go in Peace; serve the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

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