

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Time After Pentecost
September 13, 2020
Service of Holy Communion 9:00 am**

PRELUDE**GATHERING****CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Faithful God,

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.

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: Your 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.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"In Thee Is Gladness"

#867

1. **In thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the true redeemer art.
Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest.
Who trusts thee surely has built securely and stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining to see thy shining, dying or living,
to thee are cleaving; naught can us sever: Alleluia!**
2. **Jesus is ours! We fear no powers, not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses; he can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story tell of his glory with heart and voices;
All heav'n rejoices in him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness,
Love him and praise him and still shall raise him glad hymns forever: Alleluia!**

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

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**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****FIRST READING****Genesis 50:15-21**

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?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, '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. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 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. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:8-13

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.**

He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

**As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

SECOND READING**Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 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. 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. 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. 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. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 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. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"God, When Human Bonds Are Broken"

#603

1. **God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.**
2. **Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress, for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.**
3. **You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.**

4. **Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.**
5. **Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!**

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church let us confess our faith:

**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.

Petitions end: 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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken)*

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

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.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

"By Your Hand You Feed Your People"

#469

1. **By your hand you feed your people, food of angels, heaven's bread.
For these gifts we did not labor, by our grace have we been fed:
Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'erflowing, life out poured,
given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.**
2. **In this meal we taste your sweetness, bread for hunger, wine of peace.
Holy word and holy wisdom satisfy our deepest needs.
Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'erflowing, life out poured,
given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.**
3. **Send us now with faith and courage to the hungry, lost, bereaved.
In our living and our dying, we become what we receive:
Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'erflowing, life out poured,
given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.**

TABLE BLESSING

At the conclusion: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion: Amen

SENDING

BENEDICTION

At the conclusion: Amen.

SENDING SONG

"O Christ, Our Hope"

#604

1. **O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire, creation's mighty Lord,
redeemer of the fallen world, by holy love outpoured,
by holy love outpoured.**
2. **How vast your mercy to accept the burden of our sin,
and bow your head in cruel death to make us clean within,
to make us clean within.**
3. **But now the bonds of death are burst, the ransom has been paid:
you reign above at God's right hand, in robes of light arrayed,
in robes of light arrayed.**
4. **Oh, let your mighty love prevail to purge us of our pride,
that we may stand before your throne by mercy purified,
by mercy purified.**

5. **All praise to you, ascended Lord; all glory ever be to Father, Son, and Spirit blest through all eternity, through all eternity!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

