



VIDEO SERVICE
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

Forgiveness is filled with questions. How often must I forgive? Is there a limit to the grace of forgiveness? What is the connection between God's forgiveness to me and my forgiveness to others? The answer to these questions lies in Christ. As our heavenly Father has forgiven us, so do we forgive one another in His name. This forgiveness is clearly and beautifully shown in the example of Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers and then forgave them because of God's mercy.

Opening Hymn

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

sts. 1–3

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To His feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

2 Praise Him for His grace and favor
To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,

3 Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hand He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

P Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

P Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C and forget not all His benefits,

P who forgives all your iniquity,

C who heals all your diseases,

P who redeems your life from the pit,

C who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

P who satisfies you with good

C so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Confession and Absolution

P The Lord is righteous and just, and He cares for all who are oppressed. Joseph's brothers threw him into a pit, sold him into slavery, and then lied to their father about what had happened.

C We, too, are guilty of sinning against those You've placed into our lives, even our own families. We have harmed those we love through hurtful words and actions, and we have tried to cover up our sins, hoping to get away with evil.

P Let us turn in repentance to our merciful and gracious heavenly Father, and in all humility, confess our sins before Him.

We pause to remember our sins before our Heavenly Father...

P As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. He showed compassion to us by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, who died for our forgiveness and rose again to bring us new life. Because of Jesus, God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us.

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

Ps. 143:1–2; antiphon: Ps. 143:9

P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C I have fled to you for refuge!

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

P Enter not into judgment with your servant,

C for no one living is righteous before you.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

**C as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

I have fled to you for refuge!

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the sincere prayers of and for Your Church, especially for those experiencing persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

✠ God's Good Purposes ✠

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

✠ Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another ✠

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

✠ The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant ✠

Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. ²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according
to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

sts. 1–4

1 Where charity and love prevail
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love
By love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love Him in return.

3 Forgive we now each other’s faults
As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

4 Let strife among us be unknown;
Let all contention cease;
Be God’s the glory that we seek;
Be ours His holy peace.

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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving also continues as an option for us all.*

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven...

