

# 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Deerfield Beach, Florida

*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.*

## We Gather

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin. God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us ☩ all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

"Rise, Shine, You People!"



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.

### OPENING LITANY

We are the people of Zion!

**A city on a hill, a light that cannot be hid!**

Following Jesus

**Everyone is welcome here!**

Following Jesus

**We equip each other for ministry!**

Following Jesus

**We are sent to serve our neighbor!**

This is the day the Lord has made

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you!  
**And also with you!**

Let us pray...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.**

## We Hear & Respond to God's Word

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### FIRST READING: GENESIS 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>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?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.'<sup>1</sup> Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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!**

### RESPONSIVE PSALM: PSALM 103:8-13

<sup>8</sup>Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

**<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love  
for those who fear you.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

**<sup>13</sup>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

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

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

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

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>21</sup>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?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

### APOSTLES' CREED

Together with all Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the 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 into hell.**  
**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

*Following Each Petition:* ...Lord, in your mercy.  
**Hear our prayer.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray as Jesus 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.**

### PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### OFFERING

*This is the time in our worship to give thanks to God for your blessings. How is God blessing you and calling you to bless others? We invite your support of ongoing and growing ministries at Zion.*

# We Are Sent into the World

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## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you ☩ peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

"Draw the Circle Wide"

### **Refrain**

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.  
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide!

Let the dreams we dream be larger  
than we've ever dreamed before.  
Let the dream of Christ be in us:  
open every door! **Refrain**

## DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.  
Go in peace. Christ is sending you!  
**Thanks be to God!**

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