

# Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost



8:30 A.M. &  
9:30 A.M.  
WORSHIP

*"The Unmerciful Servant," Rembrandt, c. 1660*



## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C Amen.**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P 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.

**C Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

“Just As I Am”

Verse 1

Just as I am, with out one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that Thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 2

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 3

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Verse 4

Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**GREETING**

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

**C** **And also with you**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray... ...in Jesus Christ we pray,

**C** **Amen**

## 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.' 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.

R The word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## 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.



R The word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

### Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel...  
C **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."

P The Gospel of our Lord.  
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**



# SERMON



# HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Love One Another"*

Verse 1

Love one another, Love one another  
As I have loved you;  
And care for each other, care for each other  
As I have cared for you.

Refrain

And bear one another's burdens,  
And share each other's joys.  
And love one another, Love one another,  
And bring each other to Me.

Verse 2

Forgive each other, Forgive each other  
As I've forgiven you.  
Be friend to each other, friend each other  
As I have friended you.

Refrain

And bear one another's burdens,  
And share each other's joys.  
And love one another, Love one another,  
And bring each other to Me.

Verse 3

Love one another, Love one another  
As I have loved you;  
And care for each other, care for each other  
As I have cared for you. (Refrain)

Refrain

Pray together here. Serve one another  
As I have served you.  
And sing together here; enjoy each other  
As I've rejoiced with you."

**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 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**

**P** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

- Bernadette Stassen (mother of Dan Stassen, in hospice)
- Darlene Schuler (mother of Elaine Sandquist, in hospice with late stage dementia)
- George Wolf (SMSU Student recovering from accident, friend of multiple SSLC members)

- Karen Kupfer (cancer, mother of Ronda Bursell)
- Marie Seeman (breast cancer, recovering from surgery)
- Mavis Walbran (recovering from hospitalization)
- Mary Leonard (aunt of Ashley Grams, colon cancer and urothelial carcinoma)
- MaryJo Hennen (friend of Arlyss Hovland, diagnosed with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia)
- Michael Weiss (diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma)
- Pastor Delwayne Hahn (former St. Stephen Interim Pastor, being treated for acute myeloid leukemia)

- Phil Green (nephew of Roger Green, has ALS)
- Rachel Hirdler (niece of Sandy Hoffbeck, continuing chemotherapy for Osteosarcoma)
- Steve Knutson (on going treatment for Multiple Myeloma)
- Family of Gladys Schreurs (grandmother of Matthew Schreurs & Jessica Leibfried)
- Family of Harold Krueger (grandfather of Emily Snyder)
- Family of Jim Menk (former member of St. Stephen, served on Church Council)
- Family of Nicole Menk Holmes (former member of St. Stephen)



## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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 look upon you with favor + and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

*“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”*



1

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone,  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine  
forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.



2

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can  
cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story,  
Here you touched Him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure

3

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you,  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord

C **We will! Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

# Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost



8:30 A.M. &  
9:30 A.M.  
WORSHIP

*"The Unmerciful Servant," Rembrandt, c. 1660*

