

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION
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PASTOR TOM HURLEY



FORGIVE
as you've been
FORGIVEN

Matthew 18:21-35

September 17, 2023
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

“ABUNDANTLY FORGIVEN”

Whoever you are...
Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...
YOU are WELCOME here!

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome

Gathering Music

Our celebration begins with this morning's pre-service music selection. Use this time to prepare your heart for worship by reading and meditating on the lessons for today.



Invocation and Prayer

Introduction of Today's Theme

Leader: Jesus shared a parable about a king who forgave a massive debt owed by one of his servants, only for that servant to refuse to forgive a fellow servant's small debt. This parable illustrates the importance of extending forgiveness to others, as God has forgiven us, and warns of the consequences of harboring unforgiveness in our hearts. We are called to let go of grudges, release the burden of unforgiveness, and choose to forgive, knowing we have been abundantly forgiven.

Pastor: Today, as we gather to explore the theme of forgiveness, I pray that you may encounter the freedom of Jesus' abundant forgiveness in your own life.

All: May we be challenged by the truth that Scripture has to offer as we embrace forgiveness as a transformative work in our lives.

Leader: Let us pray: Lord, we come humbly seeking Your forgiveness and mercy today for our shortcomings. We ask that as we are refreshed by the truths found in Your Word, we would forgive those we haven't yet and show them the same mercy and grace that You continually show us. Help us to be mindful of the sacrifice You made on the cross and may our hearts be open and willing to receive Your love so that we may share it with others.

All: In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Leader: It is good practice and our duty to confess our sins to the Lord. It keeps us humble and aware of our need for the Savior's forgiveness. It reminds us that Jesus belongs on the throne of our lives. So, let us confess humbly.

All: **Merciful God, we confess that we have fallen short in extending forgiveness to others. We have chosen to hold grudges and harbor unforgiveness with growing bitterness in our hearts. We have failed to follow the example set before us by Jesus. Forgive us, Lord, and empower us to be agents of reconciliation, showing grace and mercy as You have perfectly modeled for us.**

Pastor: Our loving Father has heard our cry for mercy and for the sake of His Son, Jesus, He lovingly forgives all our sin. Thanks be to God for His incredible love and mercy. **Amen.**



Opening Song: "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" – LW #402

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

(SCRIPTURE READINGS ON PAGE 7-8)



First Reading: Genesis 50:15 – 21

Reader: This is God's Word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Romans 14:1 – 12

Reader: This is God's Word.

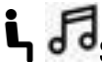
All: **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21 – 25

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

All: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



Song of the Day: "I Lay My Sins On Jesus" – LW #366

Message: "Abundantly Forgiven" – Pastor Tom Hurley

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS

† Apostles Creed – *(All speak together)*

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.

The Prayers – Congregation response, “Hear our prayer.”

Offering – The offering plate is by the door as you exit today.

Lord’s Prayer:

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.



WE GO OUT TO SHARE GOD'S GRACE

Closing Litany: Psalm 103:8 – 13

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

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

All: 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.

Leader: As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. **Amen.**

Benediction

Pastor: May the blessing of the Lord's abundant forgiveness reach to any places of bitterness, grudges, or disappointment that resides in your hearts. May you be able to receive the Lord's forgiveness and freely give it away.

All: May we be instruments of God's reconciliation to those in our lives that need it.

Pastor: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."



Closing Hymn: "Let All Things Now Living" – ELW #881

Announcements

Postlude



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT FORUM – Join us Monday morning at 9:30 on ZOOM. Look for the ZOOM invitation in your email each Sunday afternoon.

OCTOBER 8 – Pastor Joe Robb from the CNH District will be with us for worship and a workshop immediately following our service until 1:30, titled “Congregational Clarity.” A light lunch will be served. Please let Sherrald know of your attendance so we can get an accurate head count for lunch.

SERVING IN THE LORD’S FIELD TODAY: **SERVING IN THE LORD’S FIELD NEXT SUNDAY:**

Lay Leader: Judy Montoya
Comm. Assistant: *No Comm.**
Ushers/Greeter: John & Gail Hutson
Reader: Doug Holm
Altar/Pre-Post Clean: *Cecilia Bowman**
Counter: Dan Bastien
Fellowship: John & Gail Hutson

Lay Leader: Nelson Gremmels
Comm. Assistant: Nelson Gremmels
Usher/Greeter: Lance & Susan Desmond
Reader: Diana Goebel
Altar/Pre-Post Clean: Susan Desmond
Counter: Shirley Gremmels
Fellowship: Diana Goebel

**No Communion on these Sundays. Altar person will fill the candles on the Altar, change and light the hanging candle.*

BIRTHDAY: None

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: None

SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Dwight & Joseph Worthington (*Grandsons of the Bakken’s*), Esteban Ramirez (*Grandson of Mercedes See*), and 1st Lt. Charles Gremmels (*Son of Tom & Kevin Gremmels and Grandson of Nelson & Shirley*).

SURGERY/ILLNESS/PRAYER REQUEST:

Mark Jagow – Recovery from back surgery (*Rhoda’s brother*).

Carmen Roncancio – Prayers for health and family.

Carol Desmond – Prayers for clear medical diagnosis after medical tests.

Lance Desmond – Prayers for a kidney transplant, as he continues dialysis.

Mike Gremmels – Continued prayers for a successful surgery.

Javi Herrera – (*Fern’s son-in-law*) He’s home and recovering well. He was hospitalized with possible kidney and heart problems. It seems no permanent damage.

Jules Schindler – He is suffering from dementia and hallucinations. Pray for Elena as she takes care of him.

Fern Johnson – Continued prayers for her asthmatic condition.

Ken Benson – Continued healing from cancer.

Xanthia Warren – Prayers for sustaining health.



First Reading: Genesis 50:15 – 21

After their father's death, Joseph's brothers feared retaliation for their past betrayal, so they approached him and asked for his forgiveness. Joseph, filled with compassion, assured them that what they meant for harm, God intended for good.

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1 – 12

Paul addressed the rising of differing opinions and practices among believers and urged them not to judge or look down upon one another, but to respect their differences recognizing that each person is accountable to God alone. Paul emphasized the importance of living in harmony and unity, focusing on honoring God in all things.

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ² One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'" ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21 – 35

Jesus shared a parable about a king who forgave a massive debt owed by one of his servants, only for that servant to refuse to forgive a fellow servant's small debt. This parable illustrates the importance of extending forgiveness to others, as God has forgiven us, and warns of the consequences of harboring unforgiveness in our hearts. We are called to let go of grudges, release the burden of unforgiveness, and choose to forgive knowing we have been abundantly forgiven.

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

