

***15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST***

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**



**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

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.

**COMMUNION DURING COVID-19**

Welcome to worship! We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion today. Please have elements ready and placed in a way that you have easy access during our communion liturgy. Are there people you know who are probably worshiping alone? How about giving them a call, inviting them to celebrate the meal over the phone? For more information about our communion practice during the time of covid-19, please check out our resources tab on our website: [www.glcwen.org](http://www.glcwen.org).

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**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.

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** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C** Amen.

## GATHERING HYMN

### ELW 834, *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

## 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.

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.

**C** Amen.

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 103:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,  
and forget not | all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives | all your sins  
and heals all | your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life | from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires | with good things  
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide | vindication  
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your | ways to Moses  
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- | ger 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 a- | bove 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 transgres- | sions 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

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<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: Matthew 18:21-35**

**P** The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<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.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

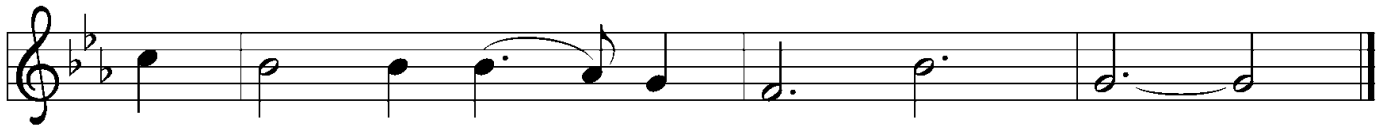
### ELW 592, *Just As I Am, without One Plea*



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**P** With the whole Christian Church on earth, let us confess our faith.

**C** 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** Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**P** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** ...hear our prayer.

**P** All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### **PEACE**

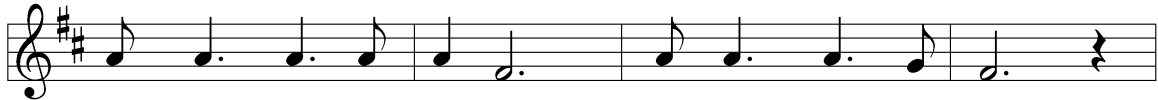
**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING



1 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to share?  
2 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to bring?  
3 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to give?



Coins      from the      cof - fer,      hearts      filled with      care.  
Love,      ripe with      laugh - ter;      hope      that we can      sing;  
Eyes      that are      wide      o - pen;      lies      that we won't      live;



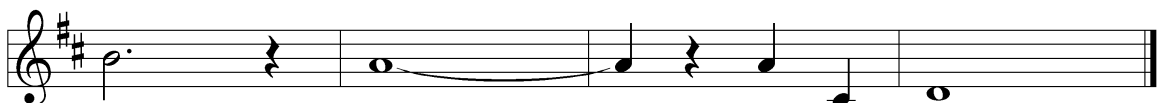
God      will not      fal - ter;      so      let us      dare  
dreams      of what we're      af - ter;      prom - is - es      of when.  
truth      that must      be      spo - ken;      jus - tice      some - how.



lay      it at      the      al - tar      there.  
Lay      it at      the      al - tar      then.  
Lay      it at      the      al - tar      now.



4 What have we to of - fer?      What have we to



give?      Lives      we      will      live.

Text: Ray Makeever

Music: LET US ENTER IN: OFFERTORY, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER** *(Please pray whatever version you prefer)*

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

**C** **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.**

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **COMMUNION**

**P** The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**C** **Amen.**

# LAMB OF GOD

Finland

1. *Oi,* *Ju - ma - lan* *Ka - rit - sa,* *io - ka* *pois* *o - tat*  
2. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
maa - il - man syn: nin, have ar - mah - da mei - ta,  
sin of the world: nin, have mer - cy on us,  
ar - mah - da mei - ta. us. 3. O Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world, grant us vi - sion, grant us  
jus - tice, grant us your own true peace.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

### *May the Love of the Lord*

Swee Hong Lim, 1992, Singapore

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody begins with a whole rest for the first two measures, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The lyrics are: "May the love of the Lord, rest u - pon your soul. May His love dwell in you, through - out ev - ery day. May His coun - te - nance shine u - pon you and be gra - cious to you. May the Spi - rit be u - pon you as you leave this place."

Words: maria Ling Poh Choo. Music: Swee Hong Lim.  
General Board of Global Ministries-GBGMusik

## SENDING HYMN

### ELW 543, *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
- 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
- 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional  
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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