

***Worship Leaders***

*Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor*

*Mrs. Elise Helms, Interim Choir Director*

*Mrs. Sandra Lindler, Interim Organist*

*Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation*

*Vicar Gayle Nelson, Intern*

*Mrs. Karen Shevenell, Minister of Music, Faith*

**MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1000 B Avenue • West Columbia • South Carolina • 29169 • 803.796.5948**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Traditional Service—11:00 AM**

**September 13, 2020**



**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Setting Three—Non-Communion—Traditional**

**INTRODUCTION**

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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*"In Thee Is Gladness"*

**Solo: Elise Helms**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

**Hymn 834**

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord Teach Us To Pray:**

*As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Trevor Anderson, Shannon Burton, Brett Ebener, Hannah Fogle, Linda Price.*

**Most Recent Prayer Concerns:**

Tara Hinson, Herb Brazell

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:**

Elise Harmon, Penny Timmerman, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazell, Hazel Rauch, Matthew Hook, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Adele Rodgers, Faye Smith, Lisa Long.

**Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:**

Brandon & Marianne Steuck, Niki Crolley, Deborah Stokes, Trent Jeffcoat, Shelton Hall, June Roof, Sydney Richardson, Betsy Adams, Chris Riggins, Nancy Reed, Tommy Roof, Isabelle Sundlie, Bill Hunnicutt.

**Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:**

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Mike Willhide, Scott Hash, John Post, Dallas Phillips.

**Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:**

Tom Bryant, Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews, Bernd Koehler, John Ward.

**The Family Of:**

Leo Blight, Sr., Freddie Fulmer, Julianne Moak, Mike Dunlap, Walter Tuten.

***Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.***

*Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Kristi Hall in loving memory of Nancy Corley Sharpe for her birthday on September 14. We miss you and love you! Your family*

*Bulletin Covers are given to the glory of God by Betty Jo Cato & Family in loving memory of Zane Spigner for his birthday on September 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*The Yamaha Keyboard and Keyboard Accessories are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Robert "Bob" Wise by his family.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## BLESSING

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*“O Christ, Our Hope”*

**Hymn 604**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 139

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13**

*LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)*

<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 ACCLAMATION

p. 142

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests hu-*

*man 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.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Where Charity and Love Prevail"*

**Hymn 359**

## 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

...Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## ANTHEM

*"Welcome to God's Love"*

**Miller/Thompson**

## OFFERING

## OFFERING HYMN

*"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

**Hymn 885**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**