

*Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Prescott Valley, AZ
“to serve God and share the good news of Jesus Christ”
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020 Traditional Worship Service*

Prelude

Gene Fougner, piano; Cathy Namock, organ
“*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*”
Showalter/McKecknie

Welcome

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

GATHERING

Opening Litany

Psalm 103:8-13

L: Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

C: you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

L: You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

C: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

L: As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

C: As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

Confession & Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: 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.

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

L: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

Opening Hymn

Hymn #834

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (vs. 1 & 2)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light in-accessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

Un-resting, un-hasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Prayer of the Day

L: O Lord God, merciful judge,

C: 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 Message

Special Music

Gene Fougner, Pastor Tricia, Cheryl Hartz

“Behold What Manner of Love” “Father I Adore You”

Coelho/VanTine Maranatha String Accomp.

WORD

A Scripture Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

First Reading Introduction

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

¹⁵ 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?” ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ ‘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. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ 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. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

A Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Second Reading Introduction

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.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ 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.

⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

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

Message

Pastor Tricia Lowe

“Choosing to Forgive”

Hymn of the Day

Hymn #359

“Where Charity and Love Prevail” (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ’s love, by love we thus are bound.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God’s holy Son;
as members of each body joined, in him we are made one.

Let us forgive each other’s faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven & 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

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

A brief silence.

L: You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place where all are welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth, especially in this time of pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Calm winds and flames as much of the west is inundated with wildfires, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Bring healing and justice wherever harm and oppression is found. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are burdened by debt. Bring healing and wholeness to those who suffer from illness of any kind. Feed all who are hungry, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Teach us to forgive like you do. Hold our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Please take this time to offer any other intercessions, either aloud or in your heart.

L: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness. And all these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

P: Gathered together as God's people, we share the words Jesus taught us.

The 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.**

Offering:

P: At this time I would like to offer thanks for the offerings that we have received both in the mail, online and in person. These gifts make it possible for us to continue to be the church in the world even when we can't meet face to face. If you are worshiping with us today and would like to make a donation, please go to our website homepage and click the online giving link.

Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, to show the world your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

The Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Hymn #482

“I Come with Joy” (vs. 1 & 5)

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and
free, the life of Jesus to recall in
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

Together met, together bound by all that God has
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

One License A733264
Sunday & Season SB142191
CCLI & Song Select 2846357



As a congregation, we pray for God's guidance on our journey of service to our membership, our community and our world. Pray for Pastor Tricia, the Church Council, and the Ministry Leadership. The church office reviews this list monthly. Please call if your prayer concern is removed earlier than you wish.

Please keep the following in your prayers during this week:

Members

*Alis Seim
Arlene Meder
Barbara Stockbridge
Ben Stricker
Carol Hotten
Chuck Lynch
Cris Spahr
David Ramirez
Deanna McDaniel
Geri Cottrell*

*Gwen Savage
Helen Morton
Jeanne Currie Tomlinson
John Clark
Judy Nielsen
Karen Roush
Kat Harley-Mays
Kyle Smith
Leigh Quinn
Len Warne*

*Linda Walkoff
Marilyn & Leo Murphy
Marty Watkins
Mary Austin
Nancy Nimocks
Ramona Walker
Ron Kovara
Ruth Martindale
Wayne Theobald*

Our Family Members in Military and Deployed

Meg Northrup Jim VanScoy Kenneth Lindsay deployed Kuwait – friend of Carl Schulze

Family Members and Friends

*Adam & Liz Crowley – daughter & son-in-law of Barbie Harlib
Anita Vasser – daughter of Mida Jordan
Baby Aurora & Baby Dale – Worthington's foster children
Becky Bodnarczuk – niece of Nancy Clark
Bill Deffenbaugh – stepfather of Kimberly Goats
Bob Hermann – cousin of Willie & Betty Hermann
Buel McCoy – father of Wendy Woolley
Cheryl Midel – aunt of Wendy Woolley
Chris Vettore – daughter of Ron Kovara
Connie Miller & son Trevor – friends of Carl Schulze
Cris & Susie – brother & sister of Clara Farmer
Dan Lowe – brother-in-law of Pastor Tricia
Debra Jones – mother-in-law of Kimberly Goats
Don Jones – friend of Jim & Carole Rebholz
Donald Wayman – husband of Bobbe Serena Wayman
Doug Bayle – nephew of Phyllis Pohlman
Edie Hales – mother of Cheryl Miller
Edward Kelly – friend of Mark & Mary Austin
Grant – grandson of Dan & Carol Cwach
Jack Gregory – friend of Ellen Rosfeld
Joann Harlib – mother of Scott Harlib
Joshua Diebel – stepbrother of Tawnya Worthington*

*Julie Ward – daughter of Keith & Cathy Namock
Kelly Smith – daughter of Bobbe Serena Wayman
Mary Schifferli – sister of Thomas Schifferli
Kris Franklin – friend of Wendy Woolley
Leroy Goats – father-in-law of Kimberly Goats
Linda Vallner – sister of Ron Kovara
Marie – Clara Farmer's son's mother-in-law
Marilyn Bostin – cousin of Tom Smith
Mark Kovara – son of Ron Kovara
Merle MacCleary – father of Pam MacCleary
Miranda & Brad Rebholz – granddaughter and grandson of Jim & Carole Rebholz
Rev. Paul Meier – former pastor of Larry & Sonya Mahler
Rich, Carol, daughter Rachel & grand daughter Audrey, friends of Larry & Sonya Mahler
Rosemary – neighbor of Mary Wakimoto
Sam Crifasi – friend of Larry Mahler
Sara Mantooth – sister-in-law of Adam Bissell
Sarah Mulligan – daughter of Carol Wade
Shelly Damschroder – friend of Kathy Austin and Daughter-in-law of Margaret Damschroder
Star Campbell – friend of Bob Saul
Stefanie O'Donnell – daughter of Shelby & Carol Tate
Trisha Galindo – daughter of Gary & Jean Kiser
Wayne Wallingford – brother of Sheila Smilgis*

Someone is in the church office weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but the church doors will be locked. Please knock upon arriving or call first. Please note that we are now requesting that everyone wear masks when they enter the church building. Don't be surprised when Mary and Pastor Tricia put theirs on when you come in! With the rise in cases of the virus in our community, we want to make sure we use all safety precautions to protect the most vulnerable among us.

MISSION OUTREACH for the month of September is the **HUSD Hungry Kids Program**. This program is for the elementary children in our school district. Bags filled with food items are distributed each Friday during the school year to the children who otherwise would not have anything to eat over the weekend. Currently the program hands out over 120 bags each week. Food items such as a loaf of bread, peanut butter, jelly, fruit snack cups, ramen noodles, individual cereal packs, a can of tuna, ravioli, or spaghetti O's, along with an apple, orange or raisins are included in the bags. Bags are filled on Friday morning and then taken to the schools.

Food Pantry – At this time, the food pantry prefers monetary donations so they can purchase the needed items. Donations can be mailed to the church and we will make sure the Food Pantry receives them in a timely manner. We will have a food bag drive, with a drop off at church, later.

Interfaith Meal: Did you know that our church feeds about 120 community members each month during our Interfaith Meal? Even if you aren't available on a Thursday (during prep) or Friday (during the meal), check with Outreach to see how you can help! With meals discontinued at Trinity and postponed at St. Germaine's during this social distancing time, Emmanuel is hosting a second meal each month. Our next **take-out only meal** is **Friday, September 25, at 11:00 a.m.** Community members who have attended in the past will be notified.

Offerings - Even though we are not meeting face to face, our church keeps the lights on! We are paying our staff, our bills and our benevolence commitment to the synod, and serving the twice monthly interfaith meals. This is only possible if our members continue to give. There are several ways to give your offering: mail it in, drop it off in the secure locking mailbox next to the front door, drop it off in person during office hours, use Vanco auto-withdraw system or Bill Pay with your bank, which is great because there are no fees to you or the church for this service. We are so blessed to have such a generous and faithful congregation!

Job Opening on Church Staff – Audio Visual Technician – as Emmanuel looks to begin livestreaming our worship services, we have created a position for someone to run the audio, video and lighting during the worship service. If you know of someone who has these skills and might be interested, direct them to the church website for a job description. Applications are available in the church office.