

# The 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

Meeting ID 715 310 766

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**Prelude**                      *Be still, my soul*    J. Sibelius   Perf. By Barbara and Mihael Majetic

**Opening Hymn**            *Come down, O love divine*

**Celebrant**                  Blessed by God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier

*People*                      *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

## The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you

*People* And also with you

**Celebrant**    Let us pray

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The Lessons

### A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

#### Genesis 50: 15 - 21

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?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, '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. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 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. 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 Reader may say*

If you were content Lord, you would not bother us; but you are restless.

*People: May your restlessness be born in us, that you upset our easiness and require us to respond.*

**Psalm 103: 1 - 13** O, bless the Lord my soul (The Psalm will be presented in musical form this morning).

### A Reading from the Epistles of the Early Church

#### Romans 14: 1 - 12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 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. 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.

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. 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.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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. For it is written,

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

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

*The Reader may say*

Use me, O Lord, for the work you have me do.

*People: And taking me, help me not to resist you.*

**Gradual**      *God is love and where true love is*

The Holy Gospel

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (18: 21 - 35)

*People*      *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

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

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People    Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**The Sermon**            Rev. Ken Phelps, Jr.

**An Affirmation of Faith**    *(New Zealand Book of Common Prayer)*

**Celebrant:**    We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**People:**        *We believe in God: Who has created and is creating,*

*Who has come in Jesus, The Word made flesh,*

*to reconcile and make new,*

*Who works in us and others by the Spirit.*

*We trust in God. We are called to be the Church:*

*To celebrate God's presence,*

*To love and to serve others,*

*To seek justice and resist evil,*

*To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.*

*In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.*

*We are not alone. Thanks be to God.*

**An Invitation to Repentance**

*The Celebrant says:*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and people:*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in

the world that you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

### **The Prayers of the People**

Inspired by the Spirit, we offer our prayers to God, in the name of Jesus Christ, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For the ministers of the church, especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Eugene and Robert our Bishops, Ken and Lisa, our clergy, Betsy, our clergy emeritus. Kip, Patrick, Deb, Tom and Barbara, our wardens, Steve, our treasurer; for our vestry and other mission leaders, and for those who serve the Gospel at Christ Church, Port Republic; Middleham & St Peter's, Lusby; and, St Andrew the Fisherman, Mayo; and, for Anjel L. Scarborough, M. Dion Thompson, and Elizabeth M. P. Orens      *Silence*      we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For every member of the human family, that we be guided to all truth by the Spirit of truth      *Silence*      we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the stewards of the earth, and for the renewed witness to the gospel among people serving in positions of public trust, especially for Donald, President of the United States, Larry, Governor of the State of Maryland, and those who serve us in County and State; that all accept creation as a wondrous gift, and work to preserve its beauty, and the dignity and respect of all creatures great and small      *Silence*      we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who celebrate community here, that our labors spread joy and our witness brings peace      *Silence*      we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all the sick and suffering, the lonely and the dying, especially all others we raise before you...

*(Members are encouraged to pray silently or aloud for those known and unknown to our community. When all petitions have been offered, and a period of silence has been kept, the leader continues...)*

That their affliction lead to endurance, their endurance to virtue, and their virtue to hope      *Silence*      we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who have died, especially Millie Miller, Alberta Watson, Joe Martinez, Bob Francis and Brian Lovelace, and for those who mourn them      *Silence*      we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those who are in any way affected by the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Comfort and sustain those who have been stricken; relieve their pain and restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength. Grant to all in authority the courage to make wise decisions that are essential for the common good and strengthen them to lead institutions that care for those whom they serve. Watch over all first responders and those in the medical professions whose duty it is to care for the sick; guard them from all danger, and keep them safe in the knowledge that is through their sacrifice and service that the health of the whole community is promoted,      *Silence*      we pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those whose lives have been forever altered by racial violence. We remember our Black brothers and sisters, beloved children of God, groaning under the weight of redlining, segregation, underfunded schools, unequal economic opportunity, indignity, and ever-present fear. We remember our public officials, beloved children of God, managing a global pandemic and the grief and anger in our communities. We remember our police officers, beloved children of God, whom we ask, often without appropriate training, to respond to human beings in their worst and most vulnerable moments. We remember the police officers who feel their loyalties divided or their cause unclear, beloved children of God who feel afraid for themselves, their partners, their families, and their fellow citizens. We remember those who have pledged their lives to racist ideologies, beloved children of God. We acknowledge the pain they have caused to victims of violence, to their communities, to their families, and to their own souls. We know that the sickness of racism is in this nation's very bedrock and we beg your mercy to free all your people from it. Help us turn away from this sin of division and toward your all-encompassing love.      *Silence*  
we pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy.*

*The Celebrant continues*

O God, from whom good things flow, we thank you and bless you. Answer our prayers and bring us hope through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives with you in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever. *Amen.*

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*People And also with you*

### **Announcements**

#### **Birthday and Anniversary Blessing**

### **The Holy Communion**

The Offertory      *Gimme Shelter*      The Rolling Stones

Celebrant: Lord God, in the service of your Kingdom, grant us the peace we may have, show us the peace we should seek.

*People: And give us the strength to do without, especially the peace we must forego for Jesus' sake.*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

*People: We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

*The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Author of all that is good and holy. For by water and the Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your love and reconciliation in all the world. Therefore, with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of the children of Abraham to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is God's new Covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we acclaim you, O Christ,

*Celebrant and People:*

This is the death we celebrate    This is the new life we proclaim  
This is the vision we live

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.



By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: We are one people; one body in Christ, for we eat of  
one loaf and drink from one cup.

*People: Thank you, gracious God, for the food that makes us one with  
you, and one with each other*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray. *Celebrant and People*

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where  
the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and  
thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection;  
I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the  
Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my  
heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never  
be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the  
life to come. Amen

### **Benediction**

**Closing Hymn**      *The kingdom of God is justice and joy*

**Dismissal**