

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (A)

Sunday, September 13, 2020

PRELUDE Prelude in C Major, BWV 846

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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

Silence for reflection.

Most merciful God,

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

In Thee Is Gladness

#867

*Congregation is invited to stand and participate by swaying in time,
playing instruments, or reflecting on the text.*

- 1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the true redeemer art.
Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest. Who trusts thee surely has built securely
and stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining to see thy shining, dying or living, to thee are cleaving;
naught can us sever: Alleluia!

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2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers, not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses; he can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story tell of his glory with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices
in him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness, love him and praise him and still shall raise him
glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

Pastor Johanna Rehbaum

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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. ²¹So 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, 8-13, 1

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,

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so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

¹**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter 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?" ²²Jesus 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. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So 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

Pastor Johanna Rehbaum

HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Charity and Love Prevail
Verses 1, 4 and 5

#359

- 1 Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown;
let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
be his our only peace.

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

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new *members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Introduce new members.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

Address and Questions

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for *these new members* in *their* life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share peace with those around you by waving, smiling, bowing, or giving a peace-sign.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Water and word, wine and bread:

these are signs of your abundant grace.

Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks
broke it, and gave it 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 love, shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one in Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.

INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God. Eat, and be satisfied!

DISTRIBUTION

Pastor will bring communion, bread only, to you in your seat. As she drops the wafer (no touch) in your hand, she will offer these words, "The body and blood of Christ are given for you," for we know that all the grace afforded to us in both elements is afforded to us in one. You may lower your mask to consume the bread; please sanitize your hands as soon thereafter as possible.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ now strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

MOMENTS FOR MISSION AND BLESSING OF SERVICE PROJECT

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord

#875

The congregation is invited to "sing" this hymn with their bodies: playing percussion, dancing, clapping, etc. "Let all that is within me bless God's holy name!"

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name! Halleluiah! (2x)
Praise God's holy name! Halleluiah! Praise God's holy name! Halleluiah! (2x)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in F Major, BWV 856

J.S. Bach