

Matthew 18:22

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## Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2020

*Streams of Grace*

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*Winchester, Virginia*

### GATHERING

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

#### WELCOME

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Badinerie*

J. S. Bach

#### GATHERING HYMN

*O That I Had A Thousand Voices*

ELW # 833



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my  
2 Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep  
3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for  
4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throng the  
5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore you to lis - ten



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -  
si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has  
joy in sum - mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and  
earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -  
to my earth - ly song un - til that day when I a -



joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -  
grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and  
slen - der, you flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, you live to  
vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most  
dore you, when I will join the an - gel throng and raise to



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!  
bod - y, join to raise with heart - felt joy your mak - er's praise!  
show forth praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!  
pow'rs can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!  
you with joy - ful cry ten thou - sand hal - le - lu - jahs high!

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734; tr. composite

Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

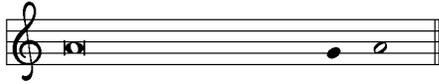
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## GREETING

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 mer - cy.**



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



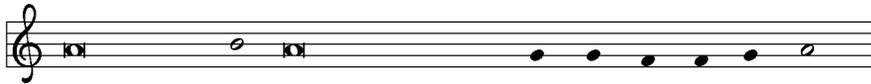
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**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.**

## **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.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **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.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

### **MATTHEW 18:21-35**

*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.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**The Rev. Martha Miller Sims**



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and  
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us  
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and  
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,  
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,  
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,  
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,  
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our  
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems  
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your  
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -  
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.  
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.  
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.  
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

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## THE APOSTLES' 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**

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

#### *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world and make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth in our homes and in Zoom rooms. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations in these perilous times. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless all the world's leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make us instruments of healing, peace and justice wherever harm is dealt. Help us in our struggle to end racism and prejudice of any kind. Help us recognize and fight against oppression. Make us advocates for victims of human trafficking and forced labor. Deliver all who are bound by debt. Move us to feed those who are hungry, and give us compassion for refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Help us strive for a world that is safe for all, especially those who are the most vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, teach us to forgive. Remind us always of your endless love and compassion. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment or argue over opinions. Let this congregation be a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. We pray for healing of body, mind and spirit for all in need, especially, *Sheila, Karen, John, Russ, Fred, Lee, Wendy, Mary, Donna, Diane, Polly, Jane, Barbara, Bill, Brian, David, Shawn, Theresa, Diana, Mike, William, Bobby, Tyra, Barbara, Linda, Holly, Ray, Tom, Paul, Janet, Larry, Doug, Clara, Rhonda, Thomas, Sheila, Kay, Katie, Charlie, Kristen, Rich, Annette, Dawn, Scott, Barry and family, Nathan, all who have been affected by COVID-19, and those we name now.* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for safety and meaningful teaching and learning for all educators, students and parents in a stressful school year. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this time of COVID-19, we pray for all who provide care for the sick and vulnerable - medical personnel, first responders, scientists and medical researchers. Protect them as they serve. Give them courage and strength when they are weary. We pray for *Dick, Scott, Lisa, Sheila, Rick, Julie, Dixie, Courtney, Nikki, Patty, Chris, Xavier, Cheryl, Cee Ann, Eileen, Joe, Patrick, Linda, Sheila, Joe, Christie, Maurade, Vicki, Cathy, Steve, Christopher, Christa, Becky, Gail, Deanna, , Bill, Shanthy, Stephen, Anna, Ron, Alexis, Jim, and Keith*. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the safety of all who serve in the military at home and abroad, especially *Seth, Ben, Brian, Brett, Chip, Stuart, Andrew, Corey, Elizabeth, Ellen, Mitra, Tyler, Kristjan, Brandon, Ted, Christine, Alex, Danny, Ron, Cassie, Scott, Ben, and Pastor Nate*. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, you have made us fellow workers in your creation. Open our eyes to the need to protect the earth and its resources for generations yet to come and unify us in the endeavor to stop further damage to our planet. Help us show solidarity with all those whose health is threatened by environmental degradation and those suffering from environmental disasters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for the people in our lives who have showed us faithfulness, who have taught us how to bow to you and praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy 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**

### **Offering and Offertory**

*Allegretto*

**Antonin Dvorak**

*The inclusion of the offering during digital worship is a reminder of the faithful and generous gifts given on-line or by U.S. Mail. To make a gift electronically you may scan the QR code. Checks may be made payable to the church and mailed to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 26 W. Boscawen Street, Winchester, VA 22601.*



## SENDING

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

### BLESSING

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

### DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### SENDING HYMN

#### *Rise, Shine, You People*

ELW # 665



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003  
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### CLOSING VOLUNTARY

#### *Triumphal March*

P.I. Tchaikowsky

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Barbara Rosenbaum  
Pastor George L. Sims  
Pastor Jonathan M. Boynton



Next Sunday, September 20, 2020, is the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The readings are: Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30 and Matthew 20:1-16.

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