

Lutheran Church of the Cross
Online Worship Service – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2020



Today's Worship Outline

Welcome and Announcements

We Pray for All of Our Teachers!

Opening Hymns: "Who You Say I Am" (Saturday 5pm) Fielding/Morgan
"Lift High the Cross" (Sunday) LBW#377

Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message (Sunday 9am)

Bible Readings:

Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Message by Pastor Leland Lantz:

"The Key of Forgiveness"

Prayers of God's People

Statement of Faith: Nicene Creed

Offering Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Closing Hymn: "Blessed Be Your Name" Redman

God Speaks To Us Today Through His Living Word
Scripture Lessons for Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2020

God Speaks To Us Today Through His Living Word

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Romans 14:1-12

¹Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. ²One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. ⁴Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'" ¹²So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Lector: This is the Word of God!

All: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³²"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt

of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

All: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Outline

Message by Pastor Leland Lantz – September 13, 2020

The Key of Forgiveness

Sermon outline based on the lectionary Scriptures

Intro: What if we were to... *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32*

I. The challenge of forgiveness (Genesis 50:15-21)

- ✦ **Brothers and sisters** (Romans 14:1-12)
- ✦ **Sin**
- ✦ **Forgive and forget?**

II. God's forgiveness is key

- ✦ **The blessings of forgiveness** (Psalm 103:1-12)
 - ◆ *Forgiveness tops the list - (v. 3)*
 - ◆ *Heals us, crowns us with love and compassion, satisfies our desires, youth is renewed like the eagle's, works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. (v. 3-6)*
- ✦ **God makes His ways known** - (v.7-12)
 - ◆ Adjectives - compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
 - ◆ Forgiveness - doesn't always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever, doesn't treat us as we deserve.
 - ◆ He removes our sin "as far as the east is from the west"

III. Keys to Kingdom forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-35)

- ✦ **How to treat a sinner** (v.21-22)
- ✦ **Forgiveness has no limits** (v. 23– 30)
- ✦ **Consequences for not forgiving** (v. 31-35)

IV. Application

- ✦ **Jesus paid for our forgiveness on the cross**
- ✦ **Forgiveness - the key to salvation, reconciliation to God & others**
- ✦ **Forgiveness brings people to Christ, who has forgiven us!**

The Golden Kernel: *Dear Jesus, show me who I need to forgive today and give me the strength to offer the forgiveness you died to provide.*