



**Lord of Life**  
Lutheran Church



*You matter to God.*  
*You matter to us.*  
**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 13, 2020**

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**  
Service of the Word

**THE GATHERING**

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

**Prelude:** *Where True Charity and Love Abide*

**Sally Drennan Mossing**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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.**

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

**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 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.**

**THE 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.**

### **Psalm Video: Psalm 103[1-7]8-13**

### **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 Acclamation:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -  
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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**

### **Hymn of the Day: *Where Charity and Love Prevail***

**ELW 359**

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

With grateful joy and holy fear,  
God's charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and soul  
now love God in return.

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 strife among us be unknown;  
let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek;  
be his our only peace.

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

## **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.*

You welcome us when we are weak in faith...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.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

**Offering:** *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

**Carl F. Schalk**

### **Offering Prayer:**

God of abundance,  
you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.  
Accept the gifts you have first given us.  
Unite them with the offering of our lives  
to nourish the world you love so dearly;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving for the Word**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

## **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.

## **THE SENDING**

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

## **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### **Sending Song: *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth***

**ELW 538**

The Lord now sends us forth  
with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth  
a better place to live. Repeat

The angels are not sent  
into our world of pain

to do what we were meant  
to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me  
and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray,  
to do your will today. Repeat

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: *Enviado***

**Anne Krentz Organ**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Altar flowers** were provided by Dave and Kay Jepeski for their anniversary.

**Parking Lot Services** are being held on Saturday September 12 and 26 at 5:00 PM. You can sit in your parked car or in a lawn chair in front of it. Please visit <https://bit.ly/31PL0vF> to sign up!

### **Worship on the Web**

Bible study: Mondays at 9 AM and 7 PM  
Office hours: Wednesdays 9 AM - 10 AM

Join any Worship on the Web activities using the following information:

**Via Zoom:** <https://bit.ly/2YYHkGh>  
Meeting ID: 563 582 7371  
Passcode: Luther

**Phone in at:** 1(312)626-6799  
Meeting ID: 563 582 7371  
Passcode: 456037

### **Prayer List**

Rebecca Klinefelter  
Richard & Gloria Klinefelter  
Travis & Kelly Klinefelter  
Roger & Kathleen Klosterman  
Tim & Mary Kay Knipfer and family  
Marilyn Koehler  
Mark Koehler and family

**Lord of Life Lutheran Guest Wireless**  
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**NOW Worship Leader**  
Bri Ensign

**Faith Formation Coordinator**  
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**Choir Director**  
Susan Hansen

