

WE WILL ALL  
STAND BEFORE  
THE JUDGMENT  
SEAT OF GOD.

ROMANS 14:10



**September 13, AD 2020**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**8:15am**

Saint Paul Lutheran Church  
250 Trinity Road  
York, PA 17408  
[www.saintpaultrinity.org](http://www.saintpaultrinity.org)

(P=Pastor, AM=Assisting Minister, C=Congregation,  
\*=please stand) (The order of service and several hymns are found in the green book –LBW, purple-W&P or  
in the blue book-WOV. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in  
this holy place.)

## Music Meditation

### Chimes

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer Concerns, Grandparent Recognition

*(During the prelude, anyone who would like to receive a special prayer and the laying on of hands may  
bring their concern with them and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive this blessing.)*

(acolytes light the candles during the prelude music)

Prelude: Fanfare – Mathias

*(During the prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: Gracious God, you have forgiven us  
each innumerable times, you see our constant sins as well as our occasional ones. Though we are unworthy  
of your mercy you gladly call us your own, though we have squandered our holy inheritance you promise us  
a place in your Kingdom. Guide us in the amendment of our ways dear Lord, that we would follow you more  
closely, more directly.)*

\*Invocation and Order of Confession and Forgiveness §

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to God, confident of His grace and forgiveness to all who are  
penitent.

*(please kneel or stand and observe a moment of silence for self-examination.)*

P: Merciful Lord,

**C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my  
brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by  
my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to  
have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of  
all your sins. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His  
sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His  
authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful Father,

**C: we come before You and admit our sinfulness. In our thoughts, words, and  
actions, we have failed to do what Your Word demands. We have not honored You  
fully with our lives, nor have we loved one another as You have first loved us. In  
the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Because**

**our Savior humbled Himself for our sake upon the cross, enable us in true humility to receive the remission You promise to Your repentant children. Amen.**

P: "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." God the Father has taken your sins and laid them upon our humble Savior Jesus Christ. Because of Christ's sacrifice, God does not count your sins against you. He has taken them away! He remembers them no more! He preserves and delivers you as His child forever! As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn: **Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus LBW# 389 (see insert)**

\*Apostolic Greeting §

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\*Opening Dialogue

P: Holy is the Lord, the Almighty.

**C: He was, he is and he is to come.**

P: He is worthy of glory and honor and power.

**C: He created all things. By his will they came to be.**

P: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain;

**C: Worthy to take the scroll and break its seals.**

P: By his blood he purchased for God

**C: people of every race and tongue, of every folk and nation.**

P: Christ made of them a kingdom

**C: and priests to serve our God.**

P: And they shall reign on earth forever.

**C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: O Lord, help your people to avoid the infection of the evil one, and with pure hearts to follow you, our only Lord. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

First Lesson: **Genesis 50:15-21**

(After the death of Jacob their father, Joseph's brothers continued to look out for themselves by coming up with a plan to procure Joseph's forgiveness for their prior betrayal of him. Joseph, despite what he had suffered, was able to see God at work for good, even when his brothers' intentions and actions were evil.)

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: <sup>17</sup>'Say to

Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 103:1-12 (read responsively)**

(The psalmist sang of the God of forgiveness and praised him for his ways throughout the history of Israel. God's steadfast love covers our sins and brings justice for the oppressed. His love for us is as high as the heavens!)

L:<sup>1</sup>Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**C:<sup>2</sup>Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

L:<sup>3</sup>He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

**C:<sup>4</sup>He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;**

L:<sup>5</sup>He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**C:<sup>6</sup>The Lord executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

L:<sup>7</sup>He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.

**C:<sup>8</sup>The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.**

L:<sup>9</sup>He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger forever.

**C:<sup>10</sup>He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

L:<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

**C:<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.**

**Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12**

(Paul taught the Roman Christians that people express their faith in ways that might be different from one another. One may eat meat while another refrains from eating meat. One may observe a day as special while another sees it as any other day. This is done by faith; personal piety is not meant to be judged as we all live unto the Lord.)

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. <sup>5</sup>One person esteems one

day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>For 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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? 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 confess to God." <sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Alleluia Verse

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

\*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

(Peter posed a question to Jesus about the number of times one offers forgiveness to those who have done wrong. Jesus' parable reminds us that we are all sinners in need of forgiveness. To withhold such a blessing from others is to fail to appreciate the true meaning of having our own debts wiped away.)

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went

out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' 29So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon: Pastor Paul Gausmann

\*The Votum

\*Hymn of the Day: **Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray LBW# 225 (see insert)**

### \* **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

\*The Prayers

**C: Amen.**

\*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.** (We share the peace with one another. Please stay in your pew and greet without hand shaking.)

Offertory: Simple Gifts –arr. Hassell

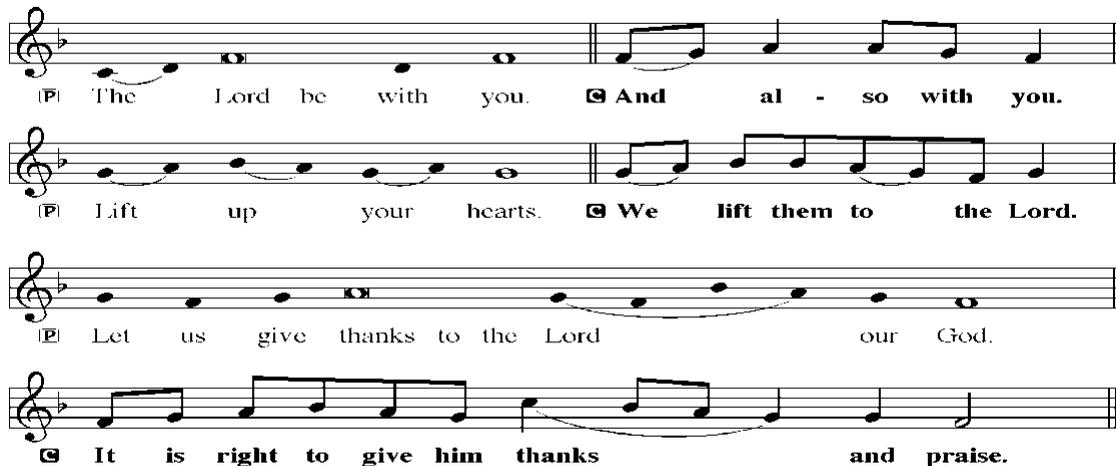
\*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray... Blessed are you,

**C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our**

lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Great Thanksgiving



**P** The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

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

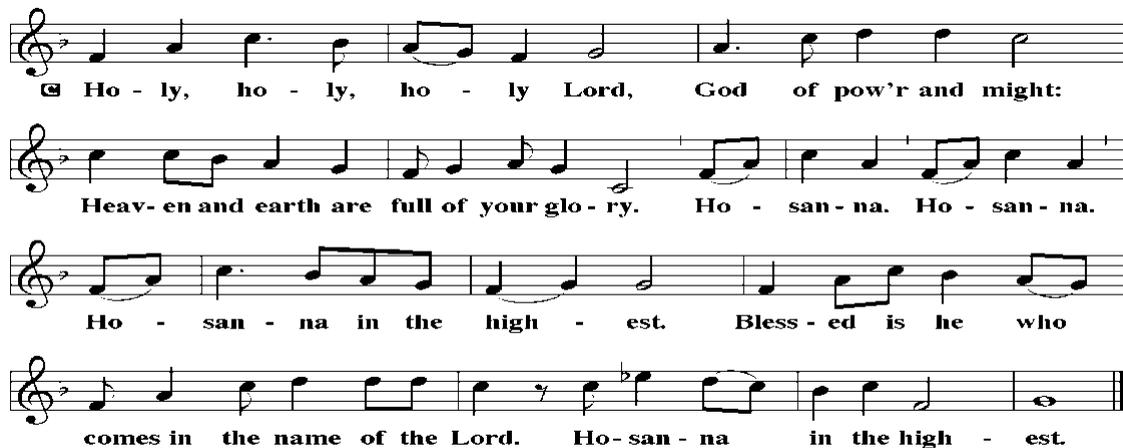
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**G** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

\*The Proper Preface

P: It is our duty, our delight, and our privilege to give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty God, everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. At all times and in all places, we join the faithful song of old in witness to Your mercy forgiving all our sins, and to Your love that has welcomed every sinner into Your presence. As He has given Himself to us in death and risen in triumph over the grave, give us life in Christ that we live here in the obedience of faith until we live in Your presence forevermore. With saints and angels, patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, we join in their unending hymn of praise, singing:

\*The Sanctus



**G** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*Eucharistic Prayer**

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

**C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

**\*The Words of Institution**

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

\*P: Lord remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray...

**All: 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.**

**Lamb of God**

☪ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Distribution of Holy Communion (Carol plays special music)**

**\*Blessing**

\*Post Communion Canticle:



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

\*Post Communion Prayer: +

P: Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

(acolytes extinguish the candles during the hymn)

\*Recessional Hymn: **Precious Lord, Take My Hand WOV# 731 (see insert)**

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Evening and Morning – Leupold

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**WELCOME!** Thank you for joining us for worship! **In the name of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul Lutheran Church is committed to praising, praying, and proclaiming the Word of God.** All baptized Christians who have received their first communion are invited to join us for Holy Communion believing as we do that Christ is truly present in this holy meal. Please follow the ushers instruction for when to leave your pew. Receive the wafer with open hands and then take a communion glass from the tray. If you have trouble coming forward **please inform the usher and communion will be brought to your pew.** Please join us again.

**Thought for the day:** Forgiveness is often a very difficult subject, even for those who know that we are called to forgive if we want to be forgiven. In our human sinfulness we seek to justify ourselves, coming up with reasons why our brother or sister does not deserve to be forgiven. Joseph speaks a word of forgiveness to his scheming brothers, pointing to the reality that God can work through great pain to bring healing of relationships.

### **Lord's Helpers**

**Greeter:** Chuck & Janie Smyser

**Head Usher:** Al Dickensheets

**Lay Reader:** Sue Dickensheets

**Altar Guild:** Linda Sherman

**SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: ALTAR FLOWERS** in memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Nace and Mr. & Mrs. Emory W. Runk Jr. and Betty Nace by Donald Nace & family / in celebration of Charlotte Hoffman's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday by the Family **BASKET:** flowers in vase are in memory of Barb Little's birthday on September 11<sup>th</sup> by the family **BULLETIN** in loving memory of Norman Will by the family **BREAD & WINE** in memory of Delores, by Carl **MAILING:** in memory of Howard C. Albright by Treva Albright **PARISH MESSENGER:** in honor and celebration of Kevin & Casey's 1<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary with love, Mike & Marguerite Keller / in loving memory of John & Mary Livingston by the family **SANCTUARY LAMP:** in honor of all Christian Education teachers by Sandra Albright

### **SPECIAL APPEAL FOR September ASAPH Teaching Ministry**

This year Andy will mark twenty-eight years of mission work in Haiti. Since 2012 ASAPH Teaching Ministry has been growing. His work includes leading a brass band, a soccer academy, a Bible academy, Asaph Radio ministry and Asaph tuition assistance. After spending an extended time in York County due to Covid travel restrictions Andy is now back in Haiti and we thank God for his safe travels. We ask you all for continued prayers for his health and his ministry. Due to funding shortages from some of his other sponsors we have this additional opportunity to support his worthy ministry. Please give generously as you are able.

## SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WIFI: John3:16

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Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-2:00pm

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Missionaries: Andy Stump in Haiti, Luke & Ruth in the Philippians

### Activities for the week of September 13, 2020

Sun.	9/13	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:15am Divine Worship Service -Indoors 9:30am -10:15am Sunday School Kick -Off/ Grandparents Recognition 10:30am Divine Worship Service – Outdoors
Mon.	9/14	7:00pm Christian Ed. Committee Meeting
Tues.	9/15	9:00am Blanket Workshop – Quilters room 9:00am Social Ministry Committee – Large Conference room
Wed.	9/16	1:00pm Women of the Word
Thurs.	9/17	10:00am Bible Study at the Church 7:00pm Bible Study on Zoom
Fri.	9/18	9:00am Our Daily Bread Snack due at the Church
Sat.	9/19	9:00am Quiet Communion Worship Service
Sun.	9/20	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:15am Divine Worship Service -Indoors 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Divine Worship Service - Outdoors



**Please call the Pastors** if you or a loved one are in the hospital, we do not usually get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name, and we want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

## NEW FAITH BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES AT SAINT PAUL

We are launching a new way of doing Sunday School that will be safe and fun! The kids will be in small groups with age appropriate activities, all based on growing and strengthening our lives of faith!



If you are in grades 5-9 **EPIC** is the group for you!  
Short video learning  
question of the week reporting  
and acting as leaders for our younger groups  
will all be part of the experience.

(we are meeting in the new parlor!)

**QUEST** is the group for grades 1-4. (rooms 3-4) Join with church friends in: Bible based lessons, projects and crafts in our quest to learn more about God and one another!



**GATEWAY** is for all those three-year old through Kindergarten and guess what... We will be: Opening a gate to Faith, learning Bible stories and Bible verses, and engaging in active learning to better understand Bible lessons. Each child will have their own colorful pencil case with their own personal scissors, glue and crayons, supplied by the church.

Our youngest friends will be **BUSY BEES** back in the nursery with toys and Bible stories just right for them! This all takes place in a joy-filled environment as we rejoice in the Good News of what it means to be Jesus' precious children!

**Senior High and Young Adults will be connecting with one another and reflecting on some Christian Music in the Youth Room each Sunday!**

### Let's not forget the **ADULTS!**



There are lots of Faith Building opportunities for them as well!  
**Lutheran Theology** will be returning to the large Conference Room- focusing on that great confessional work the Formula of Concord.  
**The Concordia in-depth Bible Study Class** will meet in the new Quilters Room.

**Parents of Faith** will be meeting in the stage classroom.

**Pastor Paul** will lead a dynamic Small Group Topical Christian life class entitled **Living the Good Life** in the Conference room in the Office.

Get set for RALLY Day – September 13 and each week from 9:30 – 10:15 am on Sunday!

**September 13 is Rally Day and we are also recognizing the role of the Christian Grandparent that day!** Special prayers and prayer cards for Grandparents will be given that day. Grandparents, can you bring a grandchild to church and Sunday School that day? Psalm 145:4 “One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.”

### **Bible Study for September (two opportunities)**

One of the enriching features of church life is our common desire to delve further into the Holy Scriptures. This September we all can engage in a study entitled *Words that Matter*, a look at the deeper meaning behind several words found in the Scripture. Rather than just a study of one book, this allows us to trace the rich meaning of the word from one book to another and, in the course of doing so, come to a more profound understanding of what conveys to us through His Word. So join us in person or by Zoom on Thursdays, the morning session is held here at the church in the Parlor at 10AM, the evening Zoom session is held at 7PM, the invitation to which will be included in the Wednesday and Thursday daily devotion e-mail for that week. The September Bible Sessions will be held on **September 17, and 24<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Maintaining our Dynamic Worship Life in the Fall**

It is a true sign of the resiliency of this congregation and the good planning of many that during this Covid Virus we have now been meeting in person and on Zoom for over 3 months. **our Worship times are 8:15 AM service in rows marked one of the Nave, second service at 10:30** either outdoors or when weather is bad in rows marked two in the Nave and with extra seating in the Narthex. The Saturday service will continue to be at 9 AM in the Narthex using different chairs than those used on Sunday's for second service. Streaming will continue for at least the first service, and we will be making special accommodation for those who wish to receive communion in their cars even when there is no outdoor worship service, we are now planning to transmit via FM radio frequency and bringing Communion to cars to anyone uncomfortable with coming inside.

### **Sermon for the 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to {Jesus}, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. -Matthew 18:21-22

**Forgiveness** has been defined not only as not seeking revenge or holding a grudge against one who we perceive has done us wrong it is has also been defined as **allowing another to occupy the same space that we do.**

Since the Covid-19 crisis started the divorce rate has sadly and needlessly skyrocketed for a number of reasons but in part precisely because couples are sadly having a hard time living more closely with each other.

Forgiveness is not just a feeling it has a physical dimension to it also, to allow another to be a part of our lives, to be within our sight, to interact with them.

The Gospel is a case in point, at first the master wants to throw the servant and the whole family into jail, to be rid of them altogether, but he hears the servant’s plea for mercy and does not even fire the man. This servant though is unmerciful and sends off to jail one who owes him only 1 100ths of what he owed the Master.

In our own lives’ stories, we see the physicality of forgiveness. Lacking forgiveness we storm out of the room, we make a bed on the couch, we lose touch with or write off those who we have a long-standing dispute with, we tolerate an absence with those we were one close to.

Saint Augustine said that forgiveness comes about when we have surrendered our natural desire for revenge. Reconciliation and forgiveness are not always the same thing, forgiveness is our responsibility, reconciliation takes two, takes working on correcting the wrong that has sparked the disagreement in the first place. We don’t control the actions of others, but we can love them in their brokenness without encouraging it or taking away just consequences for wrongs done.

Our Lord of course personifies forgiveness, God incarnate who came to dwell amidst a fallen people. Often, he called people who had not yet repented to dwell in the same space he was occupying, like Matthew and Zacchaeus.



**These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.  
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.**

Sunday	Matthew	18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness
Monday	Genesis	18:20-33	Abraham pleads for Sodom
Tuesday	Genesis	33:1-16	Jacob meets Esau
Wednesday	Genesis	45:1-15	Joseph forgives his brothers
Thursday	1 Samuel	26:5-25	David spares Saul's life
Friday	Acts	6:8-15, 7:54-60	Stephen prays for his killers
Saturday	Psalm	79:8-11	Help us, O God our Savior
Sunday	Matthew	20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers

### **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

“So why do you judge your brothers or sisters in Christ? And why do you think you are better than they are? We will all stand before God to be judged.” Romans 14:10 (NCV)

### **SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord, help us not to judge others today. Help us to accept them and be kind to them.  
Amen. (Romans 14:1)

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

Lord, as we eat the food you give, make us ready to forgive. We're so glad we have your love; thank you, Father, up above. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord forgive you all your sins and help you to forgive others. Amen.

### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Have you ever felt judged by somebody? How did you feel?
- Why should we be careful about judging others?
- God is like the master in the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

(Matthew 18:21-35). What can we learn from this parable about judging others?

### **DEVOTIONS**

Act out the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18:21-35) or read it together with household members speaking as the different characters in the parable. Then, talk about each character. What are they like? Which of the characters are you most like? Take turns praying for each other, that God may help you to be kind and forgiving towards others.

### **SERVICE**

Joseph was badly treated by his brothers, but God used what happened to bring about good (Genesis 50:20). Through his work as a leader in Egypt, God used Joseph to take care of many people in a time of great famine. Prepare a letter to send to an elected leader of your region or community. Thank them for their work on your behalf and let them know that you are praying for them.

### **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Jesus told Peter that he should forgive someone who sinned against him “seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:22). By this, he meant that we should never stop forgiving. Find a page or roll of small white stickers and write “70x7” on each. Stick these up around your home to remind you of Jesus’ call to practice forgiveness toward one another.

**People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week:** For an effective inoculation against the Covid, for students, parents and school employees that they meet safely, and for those mentioned today including \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Women of the Word will **resume their monthly Bible Study on Wednesday, September 16th at 1:00 pm.** We are continuing our *“Living in Jesus”* Bible study. This month we will study *“Strong in Him”*. Barb Sloat will be leading. We invite all women to join us in for study and fellowship.