



**OUR REDEEMER**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
GRAND PRAIRIE

*You are welcome here!*  
**We are disciples of Jesus, growing  
in Faith, Hope, and Love.**

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**Worship Times**

Sunday 10:15 am  
Wednesday 7:00 pm



**Pastor**

Rev. Julio Cruz-Natal



*September 13, 2020*  
*Fifteenth Sunday*  
*after Pentecost*

# Gathering

## ✠ INTRODUCTION

*In today's first lesson Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

## ✠ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C Amen.

P Reconciling God,

C **we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

## ✠HYMN OF REFLECTION – O Lord, Hear My Prayer (ELW #751)

- 1 O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.
- 2 The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.  
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

*Repeat first verse.*

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt. Music: Jacques Berthier.

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## ✠PRAYER OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

A Let us pray. 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.

**C Amen.**

# Word

## ✠FIRST LESSON – 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C 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.*

P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

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

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came and said to him, "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."

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ✠SERMON

### ✠HYMN OF THE DAY – Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive (ELW # 605) *Sung to the melody “Amazing Grace”*

- 1 “Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:  
how trifling others’ debts to us; how great our debt to you!
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;  
then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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## ✠PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

P God of open arms, make Christians into signs of your gracious welcome, to both members and newcomers, whether meeting physically or digitally. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries, and nurture new ventures for education and growth. Bless bishops, pastors, and deacons for their work in this unprecedented time. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P God of lands and seas, continue your care for your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we ask you to heal and renew your earth. Preserve the lands from fire and storm. Protect the sources of food that your creatures need for life. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P God of justice, lead the nations away from the ways of violence. Guide the United Nations and other organizations that seek reconciliation across national borders. Show families, neighborhoods, and nations how to welcome diversity while sharing common ground. Preserve our election season from abuse and rancor. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P God of our homeland, visit the American cities that are addressing local racism. Stand with both protesters and police, that civil society may be preserved and improved. Bring both healing and justice to our land. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P God of the sufferers, visit prisons and care homes with health and hope. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor. Deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger and provide safety to migrants. Protect firefighters and first responders. Heal the sick, especially those we name here before you now, silently or aloud.... Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P God of goodness, once more we beg for a way through the pandemic. Comfort the afflicted. Support medical workers. Prepare a vaccine. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P God of tender power, we live to you. Hear now, we pray, the desires of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

P Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have led us in the faith. Hold us with them in your everlasting love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer.**

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

**C Amen.**

## ✠PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

## ✠LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C 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.**

## ✠ BLESSING

P Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C Amen.

## ✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ✠ SENDING HYMN – I Love to Tell the Story (ELW #661)

- 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

- 2 I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God's own holy word.

*Refrain*

- 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

## ✠ DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

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