

Family Worship for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 13, 2020

Leader / Response

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.** (Ps 124:8)

If you kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand before you?

But with you is forgiveness; therefore, you are adored. (Ps130:3-4)

As we gather to hear God's Word, let us open our hearts to God and confess our sins, trusting in his infinite mercy for forgiveness and asking for his Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.

Almighty God, have mercy on me, hear this my confession, forgive all my sins, and renew me by your Holy Spirit for right living. (Silent confession)

In Holy Baptism our merciful God has declared us to be his royal children and forgives our sins for Jesus' sake, our risen Savior and Lord. Give praise now to the Lord of heaven and earth and live joyfully as his witnesses in the world. **Amen**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 103:1-12

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

² **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

⁴ **who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

⁵ who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶ **The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸ **The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

⁹ He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰ **He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹² **as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

HYMN [Christ is Alive! Let Christian Sing](#) (With Lyrics)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, mercifully continue to purify and defend your Church. **Since we cannot stand firmly without your power, give us grace to take up our cross and follow your Son; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING – Genesis 50:15-21

SECOND READING – Romans 14:1-12

GOSPEL VERSE (Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel from St. Matthew, chapter 18. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 18:21-35

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

[MESSAGE](#)

HYMN [Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive](#) *(With Lyrics)*

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

OFFERING PRESENTATION *(Spoken; LBW #489, st.1a, 3b)*

Wide open are your hands to pay with more than gold the awful debt of guilt and sin, forever and of old. To these, your mighty hands, my spirit I resign. In life, I live alone to you; In death, am yours alone.

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Sheet)*

LORD'S PRAYER

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 *(Romans 15:13)*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

CLOSING HYMN [Softly and Tenderly](#) *(With Lyrics)*

EXTRA

[Parable of the Unmerciful Servant](#)

READINGS

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ '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. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ 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. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰ 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; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ 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.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When 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. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

PRAYERS

We pray today, O God, for the same spirit of forgiveness to be in our lives as you placed in the heart of your servant Joseph. Help us to escape the prison house of our grudges and grievances by mingling our wounds with the wounds of Christ. Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for strong faith which allows us to live confidently with you, in our life and in our death. Help us to use that faith to build up those who are weak knowing that all of us are your servants who have received the same grace. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray that a revival of faith and morals would spread across our land. Let all your holy people be filled with your Spirit that they may be part of the revival that you send. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for Kenny Whitten and Jimmy Thompson and firefighters everywhere who risk their lives to save others. But especially those who are now battling the raging fires in our Western States. Protect their lives and the lives of all people in danger of these firestorms. Help all those unhomed to find new shelter swiftly and send plentiful rain to douse the flames. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for All Saints Lutheran in Nagoya, Japan. Though small in number they provide a needed spiritual retreat and solid biblical teaching to English speaking people. Bless Pastor John's leadership and use all the saints there to shine the light of Christ where he is little known. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for our new Sunday School year and all our students, staff and teachers. Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp unto our feet and sweet bread for our hungry souls. Shape and form our lives by your Word and enlarge our knowledge of you as we study the Bible together. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

We pray for the ministry and future of Bible Lutheran Church. You best know how to use our building and our ministry talents to serve one another and this community. As we gather today and the 19th, help us to prayerfully discern the directions in ministry you would have us go. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord God, you alone can give perfect healing to body and soul. We pray for those who need your healing touch this day: for Connie Zeigler, for Sarah Smith, and for all whom we lift from our hearts to you now... (silent prayer) Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we have prayed, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers for September 13, 2020

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help *(Requests remain on list for 2 months and may be resubmitted)*

Connie Zeigler, having severe back problems (C. Zeigler, 9.9.2020)
Helen Zeigler, dementia and sent to new care center (A. Terry, 9.6.2020)
Alice Stephenson, ready for her heavenly home (R. Stephenson, 9.6.2020)
Ginger Vorel and Shorter University Volleyball Team, Covid 19 (8.30.2020) Recovered and out of quarantine
Leiann Sapp, cancer surgery (L. Waldhour, 8.30.2020)
Paula Peterson, sickness (D.Vorel, 8.23.2020)
Steven Jackson, in ICU (A. Terry, 8.23.2020)
Johnnie Barnes, chemotherapy (J. Smith, 8.19.2020)
Mac Morgan, Covid (C. Morgan, 8.18.2020)
Elli, 8yrs. old, high fever (K. Wheeler, 8.9.2020)
Frank Gray, health issues (K. Hall, 8.9.2020)
David Gray, cancer (K. Hall, 8.9.2020)
Brenda Reiser, Lymphoma (M. Reiser, 8.2.2020)
Sarah Smith battling cancer again (F. Smith, 8.2.2020)
Jason Pridgen, still suffering with liver problems, friend of Betty Robinson (7.22.20)
Amy Holcomb undergoing cancer treatments (R. Ratliff, 7.22.20)
Don Hasty suffering from heart troubles (D. Vorel, 7.22.20)
Marie Callahan recovering from a Brain Aneurysm (S. Sommervold, 7.19.2020)
Pat Gollihue on diagnosis of bone cancer (R. Zipperer, 7.19.2020)
Jeff Byrd on diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (L. Byrd, 7.19.2020)
Shirley Hogan hospitalized with Covid 19 (K. Warnell, 7.19.2020)
Ann Reiser, undergoing cancer treatments (M. Reiser, 6.28.2020)
Mary Jane Duff, hospitalized for heart problems (K. Hall, 6.7.2020)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement *(Requests remain on list for 6 months and may be resubmitted)*

David & Connie Zeigler and family on death of Son, Marcus. (9.6.2020)
Ben & Karen Williams and family on death of Ben's brother, Dale Williams (8.26.20)
Karen Hall and family on death of her Aunt, Sheila Saxon (8.9.2020)
Cecelia Zeigler and family on death of her mother, Mary Bloomberg (8.4.2020)
Brenda Dasher and family on death of her cousin, JW Porter (7.19.2020)
Bobby Exley and family on death of daughter, Teresa (J. Arnsdorff, 6.7.2020)
Stacey York and family upon death of her mother Annette (A. Terry, 6.6.2020)
Family of Karen Hall's Great Aunt, Katherine who went to be with the Lord. (5.17.2020)
Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)
Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton
Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Michael Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer (Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer; Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home); Keith Cornell (Recovering at home;Helmly); Clyde Johnson (Home;Muthersbaugh); Thomas Owens (Home;Garner); Clay Stewart (Dementia;Sommervold); Rick Boyd, multiple health problems (C. Boyd, 6.21.2020); Ruby & Earl Neurath (C. Bazemore, 7.30.2020); Alice Stephenson (R. Stephenson, 9.6.2020)

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Then 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?” - Matthew 18:21

Forgiveness is one of the hardest parts of the faith we struggle with, probably because our memories are long. We are capable of harboring a grudge longer than we can stick with most anything else. Good thing for us that God is not like that! He has an even longer memory, to be sure, but his mercy endures forever. We need Jesus to help us in the forgiveness department. When we seem to be unable to pardon someone who has hurt us, sometimes we simply need to give it over to Jesus who will help us let go of the pain of betrayal.

In Jesus’ parable of the unforgiving servant, however, Christ shows us our own stubbornness and hard-heartedness, just in case we think we are purely victims of other people’s sin. A man who had a huge debt was forgiven but when it came time to forgive another who owed him a debt, he became self-righteous and demanding. Can we put ourselves in his place? The fact is that we have a long memory for being wronged by others but our recollection of times we have injured someone else is fleetingly short. Our emotions get the best of us at times and all we can see are our own injuries and not the ones we have inflicted on others.

Jesus told Peter that forgiving someone who wronged him was something we are called to do repeatedly. Not just seven times, but as many as it takes! The kingdom of God is founded on forgiveness and where there is no forgiveness, there is no kingdom. It’s not about our own rights or receiving justice for being wronged. As followers of Jesus it is about pure pardon, grace upon grace, and service to our neighbor. This is a hard pill to swallow indeed, and we can come up with a million reasons why we are exempt from the command to forgive, but Jesus is clear, “If you want to be forgiven, you must practice forgiveness.”

Our Lord modeled this perfectly for us on the cross of Calvary. He forgave those who nailed him to cross between two thieves. He pardoned his friends for abandoning him in his direst hour. He will help us forgive when we are betrayed so that we can be free to live fully in his glorious kingdom. Amen

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BLC NEWS & NOTES

WORSHIP RESTART

Today we return to our normal order of worship with the Lord's Supper celebrated inside the liturgy. For the time being, we are still printing the bulletin in full and not using the hymnal/pew bibles. The offering plates will not be passed in the liturgy, only presented at the altar. A plate for receiving offerings is in the hallway on the Usher Stand. Holy Communion will be served at a table with the Pastor and Assistant masked and gloved. A single line will form down the middle aisle and each communicant should go to the table and consume the bread and wine while at the table before departing. Ushers will help direct communicants from their pews.

We are also creating a Masked Service that will meet at 4pm today and on Sept. 27.

SPECIAL CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY

A congregational meeting to discuss amending the budget to allow for the hiring of a youth coordinator will be held TODAY after the service. This will be the only topic that will be discussed at this meeting. Copies of the job requirements for this position may be found on the table in the hallway or in an email that was sent out this week. Please see any Council member if you need further information before the meeting.

Due to the virus and its impact on the church, the dates used for voting at this meeting will be December 15, 2019-March 15, 2020.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES NOW IN SESSION

Today is Sunday School Promotion Sunday. Teacher and staff will be installed into their teaching duties during the service. Sunday School and Adult classes begin meeting next week. Our SS list for the year:

Nursery - Preschool: Dawn Vorel, Kimberly & Travis Bazemore, Judi Zipperer.

Pre-K, Kindergarten & 1st Grade: Marci Burnsed and Katie Whitten

Grades 2 - 5: Karen Williams and Julie Thompson

Grades 6 - 8: Carmen Elmore, Alan Zeigler, Robin Ratliff

Grades 9 - 12: Pastor Dave and Connie Bazemore

Young Adults: Melissa Osteen

Adults: Beth Helmlly and Carl Muthersbaugh

Christian Ed Comm: Ramona Kessler, Chair

God bless all those who give their time and talents to pass on the Faith to a new generation!

CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING MEETING

This Saturday, 19th, from 9am-12noon, Bible Lutheran members will meet to prayerfully discuss directions and plans for future mission and ministry as a congregation. All members are encouraged to attend.

PLANNING MEETING PRAYER RESOURCE

The Evangelism Committee has prepared a prayer resource for all to use this week to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the Planning Meeting. It will be emailed to every family on the Broadcast list who can then print it at home. A limited number of copies may be found on the cream colored table in the hallway for those who do not utilize electronics. Even if you are unable to attend the Saturday meeting, please lift your prayers (with or without the resource) to God for guidance and grace on Saturday.

FOSTER PARENT MEETING - SEPTEMBER 15

Our congregational ministry of opening our building and providing a meal to local Foster Parents is in need of some new volunteers. One person needs to write a Thrivent Action Team grant to fund the event. One person needs to plan and prepare a meal. One person needs to help host the event and work in the kitchen. That's 3 people minimum, though 4 or 5 would be ideal. The time commitment is 3 hours and 1 evening a month (June-July off). It's a worthwhile project and I hope you'll call Pastor Dave to let him know when to sign you up! 912-661-8735

Worship Servants	This Week (September 13th)	Next Week (September 20th)
Acolyte/Crucifer	Grant Rutland / Kirra Parker	Clara Vorel / Julianna Hall
Altar Care	Martell Hall / Ann McDaniel	Martell Hall / Ann McDaniel
Announcer	Melissa Osteen	Melissa Osten
Children's Moment	Dawn Vorel	Dawn Vorel
Council Servant	Steven Hill	Steven Hill
Communion Asst.	Connie Bazemore	Connie Bazemore
Head Usher	Ben Williams	Ben Williams
Lesson Reader	Connie Bazemore	Julie Thompson
Musician-Comm	Karen Hall	Karen Warnell
Musician-Service	Karen Hall	Karen Warnell
Nursery Assistants	Katie Whitten / Beth Helmly	Katie Whitten / Beth Helmly
Presiding Minister	Pastor Dave Hansen	Pastor Dave Hansen
Yellow Ribbon Host	Evangelism	Evangelism
Last Sunday Attn.	SS: 0 Worship: 32	
Local Florists	New Life, 826-4261; Joanne's, 754-9116	
If you are unable to fulfill your assignment, please inform the church office: 912-826-2711		

Plan Ahead!

- 9/13 Sunday School Kick-off/Promotion
- 9/13 Called Congregational Meeting
- 9/13 Confirmation Class after worship service
- 9/13 Finance Comm. Meeting after worship
- 9/14 Church Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM
- 9/15 AFPAG (Foster Parents) Mtg. @ 6:00 PM
- 9/19 "What Do You Want to See from BLC" Mtg.
9 AM – 12 Noon
- 9/27 Confirmation Class after worship
- 9/27 MASKED Service, 4pm
- 9/28 GRITS Loaves & Fishes @ 6 PM

Next Week's Lessons

Isaiah 55:6-9
 Psalm 27:1-9
 Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30
 Matthew 20:1-16

WEEKLY IN THE WORD OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday:

- ◆ Confirmation Class : After Worship
- ◆ Sunday School/Adult Classes 8:45 AM
 Adult 1: Beth Helmly
 Adult 2: Melissa Osteen
 High School: Pastor Dave
- ◆ Worship Service 10:00 AM
- ◆ Bible Youth Group (BYG) 6:00 PM

Wednesday: Pastor Dave's Class 11AM via Zoom.
 Call to be added to the Zoom list: 912-661-8735.

Small Group Bible Studies:

Ebenezer Study Group - 1st & 3rd Tues. 6 PM Meets
 in member homes. Contact: Connie Bazemore (912)
 659-2188

DIRECTORY

Pastor Dave: 912-661-8735 blc.pastordave@gmail.com
 Office Hours: Wed & Thur: 11am-4pm or by appt; Fri: off
 Council Pres: Beth Helmly 912-657-3539 stillwell708@gmail.com
 Church Office: Deb Lowe 912-826-2710 blc.rincon@gmail.com

Fully Convinced

Find the 26 bold words from Romans 14:1–5 (ESV).

D M N N E V S A B L E D E E C
E N I U A E N L Q D R D S O R
S R J N T G I I F O A T N A P
P E K D D E A K L Y E V I S H
I T W S B T T E Y E I D S N U
S T L S T A S X M N L E O R R
E E B A P B B S C S D N A T S
Q B V P X L A E K T A N N W O
V U X E C E D S N O I N I P O
D Z A U I S W E L C O M E H C
F L N R M L M F A L L S T F F
K A E W R G E T W D Y I U K S
G J D H D E W B E V A L F K K
Q N N U P D L N W F L R N K Q
Y N J X H U T W U Y G F W O A

As for the one who is **weak in faith**, welcome him, but not to **quarrel over opinions**. One person **believes** he may eat anything, while the weak person eats **only vegetables**. 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. 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. 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**.

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Seventy-seven Times

Find the 37 bold words from Matthew 18:21–27 (ESV)

O N P S G L D H M H D E T R T
R E E U N L A E I A V E O E H
D V T S I E M C S I S W B H O
E A E E R F H E G A E T O T U
R E R J O I H R V D E W E O S
E H Y F L S O S E A K L F R A
D A T D P F E R E N G N E B N
P E R Q M E A M T R E R E R D
N E V T I P O U I A V T O E T
N T N E M Y A P A T L A C F S
L M C O K I N G D O M E N I S
O Z C S E T T L E N J E N T Q
R N E V E S C C O U L D H F T S
D L O S V A C C O U N T S I S
U E C N E I T A P I T Y Q Q W

Then **Peter** came up and said to him, “**Lord**, **how often** will my **brother sin** against me, and I **forgive** him? As many as **seven times**?” **Jesus** said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore the **kingdom of heaven** may be **compared** to a king who wished to **settle accounts** with his **servants**. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who **owed him ten thousand talents**. 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. So the servant **fell on his knees, imploring** him, ‘Have **patience** with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of **pity** for him, the master of that servant **released** him and **forgave** him the **debt**.

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