

**ST PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
201 WEST LOUTHER ST.  
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013  
**Church Office: 717-243-2319**

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 13, 2020**  
**9:30 a.m. Worship**

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**+ Boldly Sharing God's Word and Unconditional Love with All +**

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**THE GATHERING**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Faithful God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

**C: Amen.**

## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - mighty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1903, alt.  
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh folk tune

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.**

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

L: A reading from the 50th chapter of Genesis.

<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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM: Psalm 103: 1-13**

*READ RESPONSIVELY*

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—**

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

**who redeems your life from the Pit,**

**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

**who satisfies you with good as long as you live**

**so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

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

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He does not deal with us according to our sins, Nor repay us according to our iniquities.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,**

**so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;**

as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

**As a father has compassion for his children,**

**so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

L: A reading from the 14th chapter of Romans.

[Paul writes:] <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: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

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

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

<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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

## THE SERMON PREPARATION HYMN

ELW 772

### Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal 1793–1870

## THE SERMON

Pastor Titus Clarke

## Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre-vail, there God is ev - er found;  
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten-tions cease.  
 5 For love ex-cludes no race or clan that names the Sav-ior's name;  
 6 We now for-give each oth-er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
 as mem-bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 his fam - i - ly em - brac - es all whose Fa - ther is the same.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
 Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**C: 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

A: You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. For those in fear, give hope, empower all whose voices go unheard, and help us respond to the pressing needs of our neighbors. We pray especially for those listed in our St. Paul's prayer books (pause), those serving in the military and their families who await their safe return, and those whom we now name aloud or in our hearts. Hold all people in your expansive love, and restore wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: *Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Lord, in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**



A: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. 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 Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE 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.**

### **THE PEACE**

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

**C: And also with you.**

### **TITHES AND OFFERING**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. Patient Lord, you amaze us each day with your ability to forgive our many sins. You display merciful acts and answer our prayers in profound ways. Help us to be stewards of your mercy and grace as these monetary gifts are transformed into active ministries. Multiply the span of these ministries to reach people in new ways. We pray in the name of the one who teaches true forgiveness, Jesus Christ. Amen. *Matthew 18:21-35*

**C: Amen.**

### **THE SENDING**

#### **THE BENEDICTION**

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

**C: Amen.**

## O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's might - y  
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den of our  
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som has been  
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us of our



Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by  
 sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to  
 paid; you now as - cend the Fa - ther's throne in  
 pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:  
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.  
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.  
 mer - cy pur - i - fied, by mer - cy pur - i - fied.

5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,  
 our future great reward;  
 our only glory, may it be  
 to glory in the Lord!

6 All praise to you, ascended Lord;  
 all glory ever be  
 to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
 through all eternity!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.  
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

## **DISMISSAL**

A: God's vision for Saint Paul is:

**C: To Boldly Share God's Word and Unconditional Love with All.**

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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“Forgive your  
brother or sister  
from your heart.”

**MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV**