

Worship Plan for Sunday, September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost 26th Sunday of Quarantide

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

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.

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.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Now Thank We All Our God (isometric) (ELW 840)*



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voi - es,
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.
Amen.

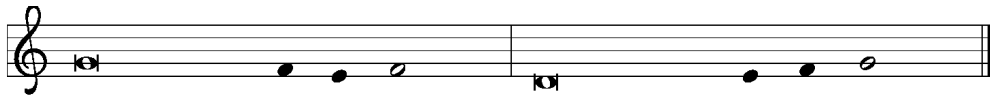
WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

PSALM: Psalm 103: 1-13



- [¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
³who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
⁴**who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R
⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
⁶**O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
] ⁸**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R
⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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.

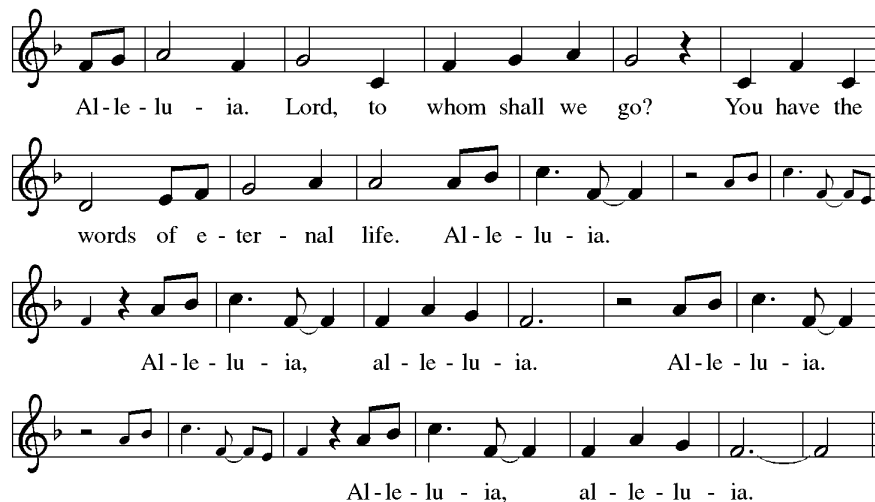
⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter 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?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.’²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.³⁵So 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 *Baptized and Set Free* (ELW 453)



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
 Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (PRAYED FROM HOME BY ZOOM PARTICIPANTS)

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

A brief silence.

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 (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

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 (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*). 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(We give give thanks to God for caring for us and for your gifts to support the church.)

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. We offer these gifts which you have first given us, signs of our thankfulness for your blessings.

Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen..

THE SHARING OF PEACE

HOLY COMMUNION

At this time you would prepare your own "Lord's Table" with the food and drink you have prepared to be the Body and Blood of Christ for us

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 112)

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Friends of Jesus, know that Christ is with you at your table. Receive nourishment for your journey. For this food is for us the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you.

(At this time you are invited to receive communion, having heard the words of Christ's promise in this meal. If you are with someone else you can commune one another with the words "Body of Christ, given for you" and "Blood of Christ, shed for you". If you are alone, you have heard them from the pastor. The worship team at church receives after the service closes because to receive now would mean a long break in worship for those at home.)

COMMUNION MUSIC: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of every table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your promise to be with us always. Sustain us by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION: *(based on Matthew 18: 21-35)*

As you have been forgiven,
now go into a world that needs your forgiving, healing touch.

Bring peace and hope to others,
sharing God's love with them. AMEN.

SENDING SONG *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (ELW 858)



- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuertem Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Benediction by Nancy C. Townley, posted on Ministry Matters website.