



*Sunday, September 13, 2020*  
*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
*Emmanuel Lutheran Church*

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**September 13, 2020 • 9:30 A.M. Service**

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**WELCOME TO EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**INTRODUCTION**

*In today's second reading 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.*

**PRELUDE**

*Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*

arr. Bish

**MEDITATIVE MOMENT**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TRINITARIAN CHIMES**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**GATHERING SONG:**

*All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

ELW 835 (verses 1,2,4)

**GREETING**

Grace and peace from our God and Father,  
hope in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the consolation of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

## FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15–21

*After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

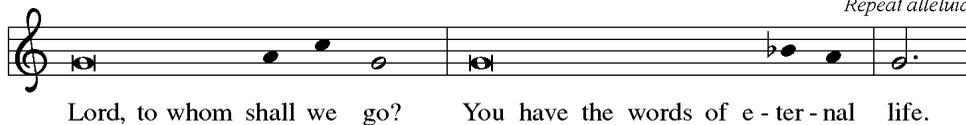
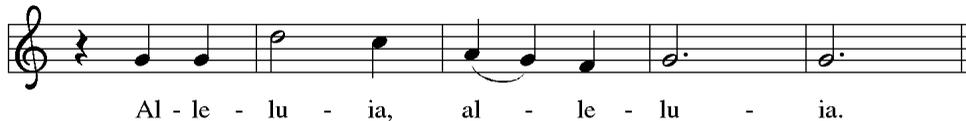
## SECOND READING: Romans 14:1–12

*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.*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## 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.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY:

*Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive*  
(tune: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*)

- 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.

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### ***Congregational refrain: "Hear Our Prayer"***



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:  
peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.  
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

We bring to you, Christ, members and friends of Emmanuel who need your healing touch.

*(Names from our congregation...)*

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### ***Congregational refrain: "Hear Our Prayer"***

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.  
The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

## OFFERTORY

**To Be Like You**

**Jamie Searles, Leader of the Alive Band, soloist**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You set before us the gifts of your good creation.

Continue to prepare us for your heavenly banquet,

As you nourish us with 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.**

## 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.**

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
Life-giving God,  
you have fed us with your word.  
Continue to open us up to your presence,  
and send us forth into mission in your name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

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

**SENDING SONG:**                    *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*    (Verses 1, 3)                    **ELW 836**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**    *March from 'Scipio'*    **G. F. Handel**

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