

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon

Christ Alone Lutheran Church, Ione, Oregon

Hymn #901 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Open now thy gates of beauty;
Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty
Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee;
Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee,
There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou;
Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted;
Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted,
Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be
Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken;
Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howso'er temptations thicken;
May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life,
As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee;
Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee
While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
Here is balm for all our woes.

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Versicles

L: This is the day which the Lord has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Psalm 113:3

L: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

**C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

Psalm 84:10

L: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C: Teach me Your paths.

Psalm 25:4

L: Sanctify us in Your truth.

C: Your Word is truth.

John 17:17

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Psalm 113:3

Psalm for the Day

Psalm 103:1-12; antiphon: v. 13

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him;

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul,

and forget not 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

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

The LORD works righteousness 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 chide,

nor will He keep His anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins,

nor repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him;

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

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." ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As 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. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 34:9, 19, alt.

**Fear the LORD, you His saints,
for those who fear Him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 14:1-12

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

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The 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. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why 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; ¹¹for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

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

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And 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. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When 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. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with

me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you? ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Hymn #829 vv. 1-2 "Christ the Eternal Word"

Christ the eternal Lord,
Whose promise here we claim,
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
On all who name Your name;
With thankfulness and praise
We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days
And make Your glory known.

Christ the unchanging Word
To ev'ry passing age,
Whose timeless teachings still are heard
Set forth on Scripture's page;
Transform our thought and mind,
Enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find
The bread of life indeed.

Catechism

Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant,
his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. 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.**

Hymn #829 vv. 3-5 "Christ the Eternal Word"

Christ the redeeming Son,
Who shares our human birth,
And by His death salvation won
For ev'ry child of earth;
Inspire our hearts, we pray,
To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today
And follow Him as Lord.

Christ the unfading Light
Of everlasting day,
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way;
That light of truth You give
To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live,
Till earth's brief journey ends.

Christ the ascended King
Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing,
Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past
Your voice from heaven's throne
Shall call Your children home at last
To know as we are known.

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Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them. . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

L: O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Collect for the Word

L: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

Jude 24-25

L: To Him Who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

C: Amen.

Hymn "Let Bethlehem Rejoice Together"

Let **Bethlehem** rejoice together!
Cherish the Word of the Lord!
This is our strength, This is our guidance.
Cherish the Word of the Lord.
Come hear Christ's promises true;
Come now and learn them with a glad heart!

In public school God's saints are working,
Living the Word of the Lord!
Faithful to Christ, His stars are shining
Living the Word of the Lord!
Come hear Christ's promises true;
Come now and learn them with a glad heart!

Here in our school young lambs are gathered,
Learning the Word of the Lord!
Hearing they come to Christ their Shepherd!
Learning the Word of the Lord.
Come hear Christ's promises true;
Come now and learn them with a glad heart!

△ Glory to God: Father and Spirit!
Sing to the Lord songs of praise!
Also to Christ, the Word Incarnate!
Sing to the Lord songs of praise!
He has done marvelous things,
Let us now praise Him with a glad heart!

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Scripture for September

1 Peter 5:10 NIV

*And the God of all grace, Who called you to His eternal glory in Christ,
after you have suffered a little while,
will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

What's Happening This Coming Week

Worship:	At Bethlehem (<i>Hermiston</i>) At Christ Alone (<i>Ione</i>)	Sunday at 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
Bible Study:	At the Ione Market At Bethlehem - online	Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Men's Prayer Breakfast:	At Bethlehem	Wednesday at 6:00 a.m.

Doxology #805 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

△ Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

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