



## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Bethel & Hemnes Lutheran Churches

September 13, 2020

In today's gospel reading, Jesus invites us to forgive one another. His invitation, however, is not an optional activity for Christians. It is the heart of the gospel and the distinctive character of Christian life. Out of love for us in our weakness and sin, God forgives us, heals us, and strengthens us to be a forgiving people. The sign of the cross invites us to the ministry of reconciliation in word and sacrament. The cross, marked on our foreheads at baptism and traced over our bodies at the

funeral liturgy, assures us of Christ's victory over death and the promise of eternal life.

Today the Church commemorates John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407.

### † GATHERING †

#### CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P. Heavenly Father,

C. we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive our sin, increase our faith, strengthen us in service, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

P. God, who is rich in mercy loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved. (*Eph 2:4-5*) By the authority of Christ, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

#### GREETING

P. Holy people of God, called through the gospel of Christ, enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C. And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God, You declare Your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of Your grace, and replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore You, that we may delight in doing Your will; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen. † WORD †

## FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

*The story of Joseph is a wisdom story. In it, Joseph plays the role of a wise man. Portrayed in a situation of oppression, he provides an important model of how the wise should act. “You intended to do me harm,” Joseph tells his brothers, “but God intended it for good.”*

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

The Word of the Lord.      Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 103:8-13

The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse us,  
nor will He keep His anger forever.

<sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is His mercy great upon those who fear Him.

<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has He removed our sins from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father cares for his children,  
so does the LORD care for those who fear Him.

## SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

*The Christians in Rome have 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.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.      Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL: St. Matthew 18:21-35

*Jesus has been instructing His disciples about confronting other people who live in ways that are sinful. Now, Peter's question about forgiveness elicits a parable that clarifies this issue. Although the community of faith should challenge sinners to repent, it should also proclaim a forgiveness that reflects the unlimited mercy of God..*

C. (spoken) Glory to you, O Lord.

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. (spoken) Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*



For - give our sins as we for - give,” You taught us, Lord, to pray;



But You a - lone 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 other's 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **RECOGNITION OF FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS**

Braden Knutson and Hayden Noyes

### **PRAYER AND BLESSING FOR FIRST COMMUNION**

P. Lord God, we give You thanks for the work of Your Holy Spirit in the lives of Braden and Hayden. As they join the family of God at the meal of our Lord, bless them and strengthen their faith. Continue to help them grow in holiness and love, in hope and in grace, and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

C. Amen.

## **RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS BEGINNING CONFIRMATION**

Sam Drietz, Ryann Karsten, Katie Munter, Haley Noyes, and Lillie Wollum

### **PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR STUDENTS AND MENTORS BEGINNING CONFIRMATION**

P. God of love, it is Your will to establish everything in Christ and to draw us into His all-embracing love. Guide these students as they begin their preparation for Confirmation, and these mentors as they begin their journey alongside them. Strengthen them all in their baptismal promises, give to them Your wisdom and understanding, deepen their faith and seal them with the Spirit of Your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

## **SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

### **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

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Merciful God, bind the body of Christ with the Spirit of forgiveness. Shape us to be bearers of mercy and justice in this world, and teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of Your steadfast love. Preserve the lands from fire and storm. Protect the sources of food that your creatures need for life. Move us to be good stewards of all You have made, and make us examples of how to care for every living thing. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

Lead the nations away from the ways of violence, O God. Guide the United Nations and other organizations that seek reconciliation across national borders. Deepen our commitment to economic justice among all peoples. Sustain all who live in poverty, and grant the gift of compassion to those who regulate banks, property, and economic systems. Preserve our election season from abuse and hostility. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

Visit the American cities that are addressing local racism. Stand with both protesters and police, that civil society may be preserved and improved. Bring both healing and justice to our land. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

Bring health and hope to prisons and care homes. 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. Protect firefighters and first responders. We pray especially for all those fighting the fires in California, Colorado and Utah. We pray for those who have lost everything to fire, wind or water. Heal the sick, especially those we name here before you: Merv, Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Lynette, Brenda, Bill and Karen Polen, and Bill Ningen. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

God of goodness, once more we beg for a way through the pandemic. Comfort the afflicted. Support medical workers. Help us to be patient and kind to one another. Prepare a vaccine. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are Yours. As we give thanks for all the saints, whose lives point to Christ crucified (especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today), turn our eyes to the cross, where we find holy justice, mercy, compassion, and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## OFFERING

*If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website ([www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)).*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P. God our provider,  
C. all that we have is a sign of Your love; all that we are is a gift from Your hand.  
Receive our offerings along with our thanksgiving, that our lives may proclaim  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## † MEAL †

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you. C. And also with you.  
P. Lift up your hearts. C. We lift them to the Lord.  
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C. It is right to give God thanks and  
praise.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P. Holy God ... bread for the world.  
C. Amen.  
P. In the night in ... the everlasting feast.  
C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.  
P. By Your Spirit ... both now and forever.  
C. Amen.

## THE 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 kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P. The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.  
C. Amen.

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P. Blessed are You, God of heaven and earth. You satisfy us with good things; You open Your hand and we are fed. Renew our strength, that we may go with eagerness and joy into the places where You send us to work in Jesus' name.

C. Amen.

## **† SENDING †**

### **BLESSING**

P. People of God, stand firm in one spirit; strive side by side for the faith of the gospel; let your gentleness be known by everyone; and the God of peace, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

### **SENDING HYMN**

*following page*

## SENDING HYMN

*Go My Children, with My Blessing*

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."  
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

## DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God

Musician: Lou Knutson

Camera: Josh Sumption

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Reader: Sara Wollum

Projection: Katie Munter

## How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658

Pastor's House: 507-296-4558

Pastor's Cell: 507-828-1000 (call or text)

Pastor's email: [pastormunter@gmail.com](mailto:pastormunter@gmail.com)

Bethel email: [bethel@bethelofporter.com](mailto:bethel@bethelofporter.com) Bethel web page: [www.bethelofporter.com](http://www.bethelofporter.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>

September 6, 2020

General: \$2,649.63 (\$749.50 received through eGiving)

Includes: \$1,625.13 from Hemnes Lutheran Church.



Merv Anderson, Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson  
Shirlee Gabbert, Lynette Christie, Brenda Knutson,  
Bill and Karen Pohlen Bill Ningan



Congratulations to our First Communion students!

Hayden Noyes is the son of Anna Noyes and the late Brad Noyes.

Braden Knutson is the son of Mike and Brenda Knutson.

Our Sympathy is extended to the Curt Blumeyer family.

There will be a visitation for Curt Blumeyer at the Houseman Funeral Home- Canby from 5-8 pm on Friday September 18<sup>th</sup>.



## Acknowledgements

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"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive" Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-1987. Text © 1969 Oxford University Press.

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Prayers of Intercession: Sundays and Seasons and Gail Ramshaw, lightly edited by Pastor Munter.