

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CELEBRATION OF SERVICE, OWE NOTHING BUT LOVE

September 13, 2020

9:00 a.m.

The Rev. Kurt Christenson, pastor

Bill Engel, organ

Paul Engel & Jan Neuhaus, singers

Matthew Eckert, Lector

Jan Neuhaus, Person of Prayer

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING LITANY FOR WORK AND FOR HANDS

As we live in community with God and one another

May our hands be instruments of peace and love

For those who are in need of warmth and food

May our hands prepare quilts and a banquet.

When a stranger is in our midst

May our hands extend a welcome.

For the teaching and instruction of all people

May our hands be in the Word of God.

When injustice is in the world and in our communities

May our hands write letters and peacefully join others.

In times of sorrow, sickness and great suffering

May our hands be embrace the broken and offer prayers

For those who are need of physical structures

May our hands build homes, schools, and wells.

God, may we be reminded whatever the need, large or small, you are at work in our hands. May we serve generously, lovingly, and faithfully.

Amen.

BLESSING OF HANDS

Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, your grace renew, and your fire cleanse us, soul and body, in life

and in death, in this world of shadows and in your changeless word of light eternal, now and forever. **Amen.**

God, source of all goodness draw your church together. We are called by the Holy Spirit to serve and love one another. As children of God, we have been marked by the sign of the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world. Lord, we ask for your blessings upon our hands. Hands that will be about your work. Hands which will spread love and compassion in your world. **Amen.**

*Rev. Rebecca Breddin, ELCA
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OPENING HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People!



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003
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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 LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

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

PSALM READING: Psalm 103:8-13

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

**you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

**As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

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

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. 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.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

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. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are forgiven on account of his name. ***Alleluia.*** (1 John 2:1, 12)

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

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?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

SERMON

Pastor Kurt

HYMN OF THE DAY

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;
5 Let us 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.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The first system contains the first three lines of lyrics. The second system contains the remaining lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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Interview with Carly Keen of “I Love a Clean San Diego” and Invitation to God’s Work. Our Hands.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**sung after the prayers:*

*Refrain

O God, hear us; hear our prayer.

The musical score is for a single melodic line in treble clef. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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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.

OFFERING

[Give Here](#)

OFFERING PRAYER

Affirmation of Service

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, God is at work. God is working through us, in us, and by our hands. Will you look to Jesus, who frees us from a service of sin and death, as our example in freely serving others with our hands in love, compassion and humility?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Prayer of Commitment

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours. Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling.

THE PEACE

Take some time this week to share God's peace in a Trinitarian way. First, with a member or friend of First Lutheran. Second, connect with a friend, colleague, classmate, or neighbor whom you haven't spoken with in a while; and third, when you are out and about in the world, say these words to a stranger: "peace be with you." Don't be shy, you're wearing a mask anyway. You'll know if they are Lutheran/Episcopalian/Catholic by their response.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

In Thee Is Gladness



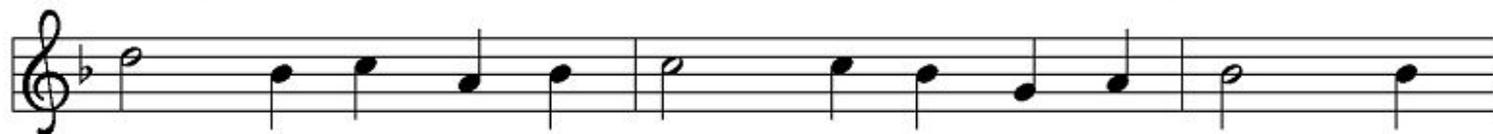
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Go now into the world and live for Christ.
Whatever you do, do it in honour of the Lord
giving thanks to God.
Show forgiveness to one another
as in Christ you have received forgiveness.

And may God provide an escape from all that threatens you;
May Christ Jesus shower mercy on you and through you;
And may the Holy Spirit uphold you as you stand in Christ.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE