



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

September 13, 2020

Welcome! In today's Romans Passage, the Apostle 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 in the Gospel Reading that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. Whenever we hear the words of absolution in worship and sign ourselves with the Cross, may we be renewed in our baptismal identity to be living signs of reconciliation in the world.



Prelude and Bells

Aria by Craig Phillips

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed Blessed be the Holy Trinity: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

Recognizing our need for God's mercy and grace, we confess our sin...

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

God of heaven and earth:

**We name before you the sin that enslaves us,
the sin that wounds us and others,
the sin that scars our world.
We have held too tightly your gifts.
We have lived for ourselves at the expense of others.
Turn us again to you, O God, and toward our neighbor.
Have mercy on us, O Lord. Amen.**

God is generous and faithful, forgiving sins without number, welcoming all to the feast, and giving us a place among the saints. Through the humble obedience of + Christ Jesus, who went to the Cross for our sake, you are forgiven and made whole. The Spirit of God is at work in you, enabling you to live for one another. **Amen.**

Choir

O Christ, Our Hope

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

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

Romans 14:7-12

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 103:8-13

⁸Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Pastor James Dew

Anthem

Bread of the World in Mercy Broken Arr. Carlton Young

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith...

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbors as ourselves, we lift up our prayers on behalf of the Church and the world which surrounds us...

(*A brief silence*)

God of grace, as we continually learn how to give ourselves away in love for you and others, may we also continually discover the length and breadth of your love for us and for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for the gift of faithfulness, that whenever we feel confused, doubtful, or even fearful in the face of challenge, may we nonetheless boldly follow wherever Jesus leads us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all and over all, we pray for the growth of peace among all the descendants of Abraham and throughout the world, that you will heal old wounds and misunderstandings, and bring greater cooperation among people of all faiths and cultures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, we pray for the safety of so many whose lives have been struck by recent hurricanes, fires, and other calamities, and we pray also for all who labor to assist them, that you will renew their strength and enfold them in safety and care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, whose love and mercy are beyond measure, come near to touch with your healing love all who long for wholeness in any way, for themselves and for those whom they love. We place into your good hands the well-being of *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny and Cherie Knippa, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Albert and Delyce Tietze, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Bill Witte, Beth Knox, Tom Bartholomew, Don Vogt, Lee and Karen Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Dean Olson, Steve Wendel, Joe Reiner, Jonathan Sulaica, the family of Henry Gembler*, and all whom we also name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

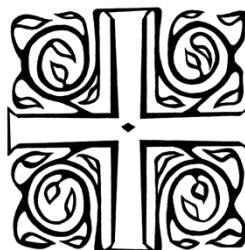
All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy, O God, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(*Please verbally greet those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you."*)



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, God of heaven and earth, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
While we were weak in faith, he came to strengthen us with your everlasting hope;
While we were slaves to sin, he came to lead us into the promised land of mercy;
While our hearts became like flint, he came to soften them with compassion;
While we could only focus on ourselves, he came to die for us.

For on 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, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

As often as we eat of this bread and share this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, upon this bread and wine,
and upon all who long to do your will in their own faithful living.
Shape us as servants to a world fractured by injustice and fear.
Transform our hearts, to hear the cries of the last, the least, the little, and the lost,
and shape our lives to speak and act of their behalf.

To you, O God, be all praise and glory, among your people, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**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.**

Holy Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist are being offered in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.

Communion Prayer

Holy God:
At this table your Son has given us his very self,
and has nourished us to be your people.
Send us now, to make his love known to all;
that we may be his heart that beats for others,
his hand that lightens burdens,
and his word of life and hope.
Send us now, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

Benediction

Go now into the world and live for Christ.
Whatever you do, do it in honor of the Lord, giving thanks to God.
Show forgiveness to one another
as in Christ you have received forgiveness.
May Christ Jesus shower mercy upon you and through you;
and may the Holy Spirit uphold you as you stand in Christ. **Amen.**

Choir

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Dismissal

Go in peace to serve the Lord.
In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Lobe den Herren by Craig Phillips

Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

This Week at St. John's

Today, September 13 @ 8:30am
Today, September 13 @ 10:00am
Wednesday, Sept 16 @ 12:15pm

Pastor's Class
Worship
Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online
Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82707115011>

Please see our online calendar at www.stjohnssa.org for other events.

*For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org*

Ministry Opportunities at Christian Assistance Ministry

Clothing Needs

Accepting: gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women; casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes.

Not accepting at this time: any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear.

Contact Sarah Kory at skory@cam-sa.org or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

Help Feed the Hungry

Every other Tuesday, some members of St. John's deliver sandwiches to CAM around 11:00am.

If you would like more information about this ministry and how you can lend support, please contact Bea Imken at 210-887-2217.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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