GRACE LUTHERAN CHAPEL

*Grace Chapel exists to make and keep disciples for Jesus Christ.*

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Saturday, September 12, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 13, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.**

WELCOME/GREETING

OPENING HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,” No. 790

**1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!  
    Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!**

**2 Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
    Have you not seen All that is needful has been  
Sent by His gracious ordaining?**

**3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
    What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade you.**

**4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
    Ponder anew What the Almighty can do  
As with His love He befriends you.**

**5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
    Let the Amen Sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

*The Lord works righteousness*

**and justice for all who are oppressed.**

*The Lord is merciful and gracious,*

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,*

**bless His holy name!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Almighty God, merciful Father,*

**We confess to You that we have sinned against You in our thinking, speaking, and acting, by not forgiving the people around us the way You have so graciously forgiven us in Christ. For Christ’s sake alone, we boldly ask Your forgiveness. Send the Holy Spirit to empower us to freely forgive others the way we have been forgiven.**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who, for the sake of Christ Jesus, forgives all your iniquity, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the pit, crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, and satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

KYRIE

*That we may be quick to forgive others,*

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*That we may let go of the grudges we so easily hold,*

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*That we may always live in the light of Your forgiveness,*

**Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.**

HYMN OF PRAISE“Glory to God, We give You Thanks and Praise,” No. 946

**1 Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
    Of heav’nly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
    Lord God, almighty Father, heav’nly King.**

**2 Lord Jesus Christ, the Father’s only Son,  
    You bore for us the load of this world’s sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict’ry won,  
    Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.**

**3 Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
    At God’s right hand in majesty most high:  
Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
    With all the heav’nly host we glorify.**

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SALUTATION

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. Almighty God, how quickly we forget the great love with which You love us*

*and the grace You have freely bestowed upon us through the life, death, and resurrection*

*of Christ. Grant that our gaze be fixed on Jesus, our hearts overwhelmed by Your love,*

*and that all our relationships may be marked by forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our*

*Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 50:15-21

**15**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.” **16**So 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. **18**His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” **19**But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? **20**As 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. **21**So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 103:1-12 *(Spoken responsively)*

**1***Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!***2Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

**3***who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,***4who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

**5***who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

**6The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed**.

**7***He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.***8The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**9***He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.***10He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

**11***For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;***12as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

EPISTLE 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. 8For 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. 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.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

**21**Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” **22**Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

**23**“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. **24**When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. **25**And 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. **26**So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ **27**And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. **28**But 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.’ **29**So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ **30**He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. **31**When 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. **32**Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. **33**And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ **34**And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. **35**So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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.**

OFFERING PRAYER

SERMON “Forgiving”

Genesis 50:15-21 – Pastor Ruback

SERMON HYMN “When Peace, Like a River,” No. 763

**1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
    When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;**

**Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
    It is well, it is well with my soul. *Refrain***

***Refrain:* It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul),  
 It is well, it is well with my soul.**

**2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
    Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
    And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain***

**3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
    My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.  
    Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain***

**4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,  
    The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
    Even so it is well with my soul*. Refrain***

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For faith in the full forgiveness of our sins for Christ’s sake and the readiness of Joseph to extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For all pastors, teachers, missionaries, and other church workers, that they be filled with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news of forgiveness for all through Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For all who bear authority in the civil realm, that God would grant them wisdom to act for the good of all citizens, for an end to hostilities, and for peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For the sick, the suffering, and all who love them, that according to God’s good and gracious will, they may prosper and be in health even as their souls prosper, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For faithfulness to the end, that we may receive the crown of life with all who wait for the day of Christ’s glorious appearing, let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*For all these things and whatever else You know that we need, we ask You, dear Father, for the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever unto the ages of ages.*

**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.**

BENEDICTION

*The Lord bless you and keep you.*

*The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.*

*The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.*

**Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “What God Ordains Is Always Good,” No. 760

**1 What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.  
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.  
        My God indeed In ev’ry need  
Knows well how He will shield me; To Him, then, I will yield me.**

**2 What God ordains is always good: He never will deceive me;  
He leads me in His righteous way, And never will He leave me.  
        I take content What He has sent;  
His hand that sends me sadness Will turn my tears to gladness.**

**3 What God ordains is always good: His loving thought attends me;  
No poison can be in the cup That my physician sends me.  
        My God is true; Each morning new  
I trust His grace unending, My life to Him commending.**

**4 What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father;  
He suffers naught to do me harmThough many storms may gather.  
        Now I may know Both joy and woe;  
Someday I shall see clearly That He has loved me dearly.**

**5 What God ordains is always good: Though I the cup am drinking  
Which savors now of bitterness, I take it without shrinking.  
        For after grief God gives relief,  
My heart with comfort filling And all my sorrow stilling.**

**6 What God ordains is always good: This truth remains unshaken.  
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.  
        I fear no harm, For with His arm  
He shall embrace and shield me; So to my God I yield me.**

POSTLUDE

*Grace is for all!*