

In today's second reading 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 that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

Individuals need to follow <u>healthy hygiene</u> practices, <u>stay at home when sick</u>, practice <u>physical distancing</u> to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a <u>cloth face covering</u>... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed. [The Center for Disease Control" Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, refrain from singing, and speak together very quietly only for the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed. The louder we speak, the more potential viral spread there would be, even from behind masks."

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407; John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

15th Sunday after Pentecost – September 13, 2020 Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemlutheran.com FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

(8:00) Let the Bright Seraphim (10:30) Sheep May Safely Graze Lauren Christ, Marimba G.F. Handel J.S. Bach

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgression

Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

to do God's work in the v

Amen.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

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.

WORD

Genesis 50:15-21

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

The assembly is seated.

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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. ²¹So 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.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

The assembly stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to 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; ²⁵ 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. 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 David Rowe

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY Come, Ye Disconsolate

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The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

1 Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish; come to the mercy-seat, fervently kneel. Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;

earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.

- 2 Joy of the desolate, light of the straying, hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure; here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying, "Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure."
- 3 Here see the Bread of life; see waters flowing forth from the throne of God, pure from above. Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove.

Text: Thomas Moore, 1779-1852, sts. 1-2; Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872, st. 3

(8:00) APOSTLES CREED

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking. We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

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.

(10:30) AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Wanda K. Michalsky

p. 234

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

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

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. We especially pray for the people left homeless by wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. 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. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Silence our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give hope and strength during this pandemic, and bring healing to all who struggle with anxiety or depression. Give strength to students, teachers, and staff and parents as schools resume. Bless the work of medical workers and caregivers. Show your comfort and healing to all who are sick or in need of your care, especially all whom we now raise in prayer before you... Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,

for calling creation into being,

declaring forgiveness from the cross,

and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

We praise you, O God, for your Word:

we praise you, O God, for your Word.

Your word is a lamp lighting our path, a mirror reflecting our selves, a shield providing us refuge, a fire burning for justice and truth. Your word is sweeter than honey: it nourishes our bodies like milk, it sustains your people like bread. We receive your promises, more treasured than gold. We bless you, O God, for your Word: we bless you, O God, for your Word.

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints, and to all the cries of the needy.

Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ, that heeding your voice of beauty and power we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath — we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word: we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Special Offering for pandemic relief during the Coronavirus

PRAYER FOR GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Loving God, you created all people in your image. During this time of the Coronavirus, use our special offering to Lutheran World Relief to bring medical supplies to regions of the world that lack basic person protection equipment, medicine, hospitals and clinics. Inspire your church in every place to extend your love and compassion to all people who battle disease, illness, and pandemic. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

BLESSING

The assembly stands. The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing. Mothering God,

Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. Amen.

SENDING SONG

God's Work, Our Hands

God's work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.

Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God's work, our feet: trav'ling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God's future the goal.

Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God's work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God's love for the lost and the least.

Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God is at work in and around us:

seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.

Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your Gospel.

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DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission. Go in peace. Remember the poor. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

(8:00) Toccata (10:30) Bouree' Johann Pachelbel J.S. Bach

Lauren & Audrey Christ on marimba

OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave. If you are worshiping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.

To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Charles Gurski, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Gemma Geary, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin

Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Direnzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Mary Rowe	Leslie Wagner
Cantor(s)	Mary Rowe	Leslie Wagner
Guides	Faith Batz	Lloyd Wertz
	Deb Reed	Don Boyer
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Rick Heckrote
Altar Guild	Alberta Hudson & Linda Collins	
Counters	Lou Messina and Janet Sattizahn	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am	
Assisting Minister	Lou Messina	Krista Sausser	
Cantor(s)	Lou Messina	Krista Sausser	
Guides	Bill Shay	Jane Mahoney	
	Anita Vickers	Frank Mahoney	
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager	
Altar Guild	Alberta Hudson & Linda Collins		
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Sha		

WEEKLY NEWS

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the glory of God, in loving memory of Queen Sharadin by her daughter, Nancy.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S CANTORS: 8:00 am – Mary Rowe & 10:30 am – Leslie Wagner.

THANK YOU to Audrey's daughter, Lauren Christ, who is our guest instrumentalist today during the 10:30 am service on marimba playing Bach.

TODAY IS GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY 2020! THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE would like to thank everyone for your generous donations for our God's Work, Our Hands project. Because you opened your hearts and your pockets, we will be sending

Lutheran World Relief's COVID 19 Response initiative \$1,505.00! Know that because of your donations, many people will be better able to equip themselves to be protected from the coronavirus. Fifteen hundred and five dollars will go a long way to provide face masks, personal hygiene kits, and emergency medical supplies. Thank you so very much! Together we are making our world a better place!

WE WILL OBSERVE HARVEST HOME ON OCTOBER 4th with a special offering of money and food for our Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. You are invited to bring items of non-perishable food and place them in the grocery cart in the lobby or you may drop these items off at the church office on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Your gifts will help to provide food to about 180 families who need assistance with meals and receive food at the Pantry each month.

THE ANNUAL CROP WALK sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity Council of Churches will be held on Sunday, October 4 behind the Walk-In Center, with registration and devotions beginning at 12:45, and the walk starting at 1:00. OR – during this pandemic you may walk on your own, or even on a treadmill. Walkers at the event or on their own contribute money and gather additional sponsors, with the money going to alleviate hunger locally (25% goes to our Council of Churches' Food Pantry), nationally, and globally, through Church World Service (the hunger ministry of the World Council of Churches). Please sign up with Shirly Shackleton or Cheryl Miller, and turn your money into them (or see them if you would rather gather contributions through the CROP website). As a congregation with some of the most walkers, let us have fun, be a visible presence in the community, and support the anti-hunger ministry of the Council of Churches and CROP.

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS will be held at 1:00 on Sunday, October 11. Critters of all kinds are welcome to receive a blessing in the tradition of Saint Francis of Assisi (his witness is commemorated on October 4). And of course, please leash or restrain your pets since there will be others there (and the pastor may bless snarling or snake-like critters from a distance).

FROM THE FAMILY OF RON GILL: Thank you to our church family for all your expressions of support through our Dad's final journey home to be with his Lord. Special thanks to Pastor Rowe for his visits to Dad while he was still at home and for delivering a hopeful message at his funeral. Thanks also to Phil & Bev Kriner for being cantors at his funeral; the songs were sung so beautifully. We greatly appreciate all the cards, flowers, and verbal condolences. We are fortunate to be a part of such a caring fellowship of faith.

FACE MASKS with A MESSAGE, and to BUILD CAMARADERIE! Four patterns are available — Lutheran's seal, "human - kind be both", "Choose Kind", and "Little Lutheran." Supplies are limited on Little Lutheran, but human kind and Choose Kind are available in both adult and youth sizes. Please see the descriptions on the table for each mask for further details. We are selling them below cost for \$8 each. See samples and order form in the lobby. Today is the last day to order face masks.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE! Classes for children and youth will begin in October after a month of the new school year, either in-person or virtually, depending on our county Covid rate and governmental guidelines. We look forward to bringing our younger disciples into relationship with faithful adults, and teaching them the language and stories of faith.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship

10:30am Worship

TUESDAY 6:00pm Childcare Committee Meeting (via Zoom)

FRIDAY 1:00pm Food Pantry Distribution

HOLY COMMUNION WILL RESUME ON OCTOBER 4.

unless there is a spike in Covid infections due to Labor Day activities and the return of many students and staff to school. There will be several changes after this long time when out of safety, we have forgone the Lord's Supper for many months:

- We will use wafers instead of bread, and not offer the cup, in accordance with ecumenical guidelines for worship, in order to minimize contact and the potential spread of the virus (the pastor will use sanitized hands for distribution).
- Holy Communion will be offered every week, following the norm of both Martin Luther and our "green hymnal" of 1978. In adult Sunday School, the Worship and Music Committee, and Church Council, people have been wanting to move toward weekly communion, but although it will now be offered each Sunday, not everyone has to take it. This change is one of moving from people desiring the Lord's Supper every week but not being able to receive it, to people who desire it every week receiving it while others spend a few extra minutes in prayer.
- The table will be extended by arranging for volunteers to deliver the host to some of our homebound members on their way home. Volunteers will be needed so that especially during this pandemic when more people cannot attend worship, those at home will be able to receive the Supper. Volunteers to deliver the wafers will receive an orientation, and a very brief order of service that will be conducted at the door or another place outside (not in the home!) when they deliver Communion to their neighbors.