

Traditional Worship

September 17, 2023

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 24

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

Fantasie in D Minor – Johann Krieger

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive – arr. Wilbur Held

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Opening Hymn.

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

OPENING HYMN #835 - Verses 1-3 *

All Creatures, Worship God Most High

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

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

Assembly: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray,

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Most merciful God,

**Assembly: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
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, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

Leader: 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.
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Assembly: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #835 – Verses 4-6 *

All Creatures, Worship God Most High

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Let us pray,
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.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 103:1-13

*The cantor sings the refrain and then the assembly joins in the refrain.
The cantor then sings the verses and the assembly joins in each refrain.*

LORD, you are full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;...*Refrain*

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;...*Refrain*
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...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has 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.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.
²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who 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. ⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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. 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



GOSPEL LESSON *

Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

Assembly: **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. ²³For 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."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

APOSTLE'S 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 *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "Merciful God,"

Assembly: receive our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ."

Assembly: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

OFFERING

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using this QR Code.



8:00 – *Beloved, God's Chosen* – Robert Hobby

*Beloved, God's chosen,
put on as a garment compassion, forgiveness, and goodness of heart.
Above all, before all, let love be your raiment
that binds into one every dissonant part.*

*Within, call forth Wisdom, to dwell in you richly;
let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ.
And from the heart's chamber, beloved and holy,
let singing thanksgiving to God ever rise.*

11:10 – *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* – Brenda Portman

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.*

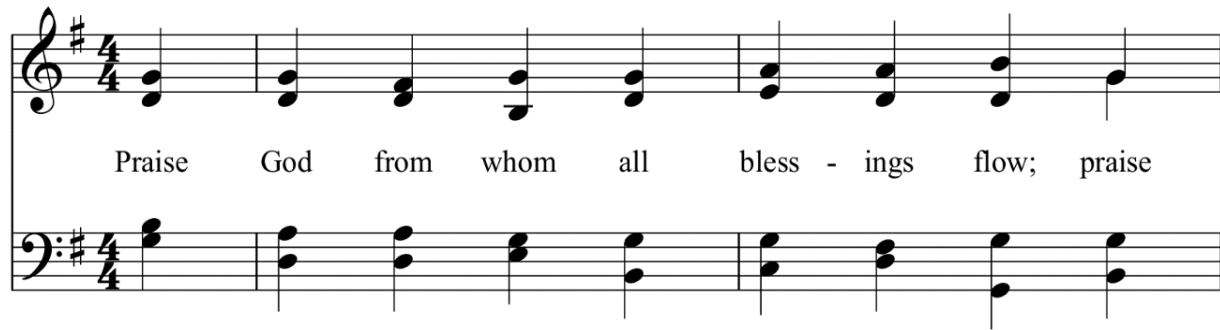
He has shown you what is good.

*And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with your God.*

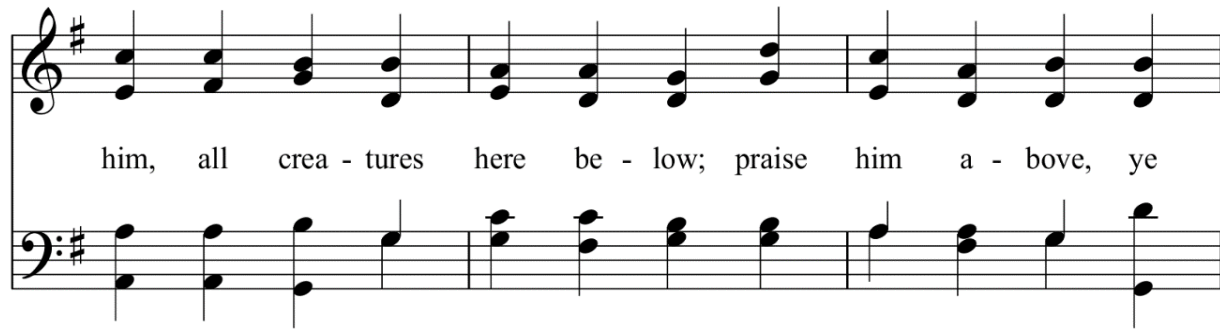
*For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
Let us take you at your word,
And our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.
Amen.*

OFFERTORY *

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow (Tallis' Canon)



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise



him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye



heav'n - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

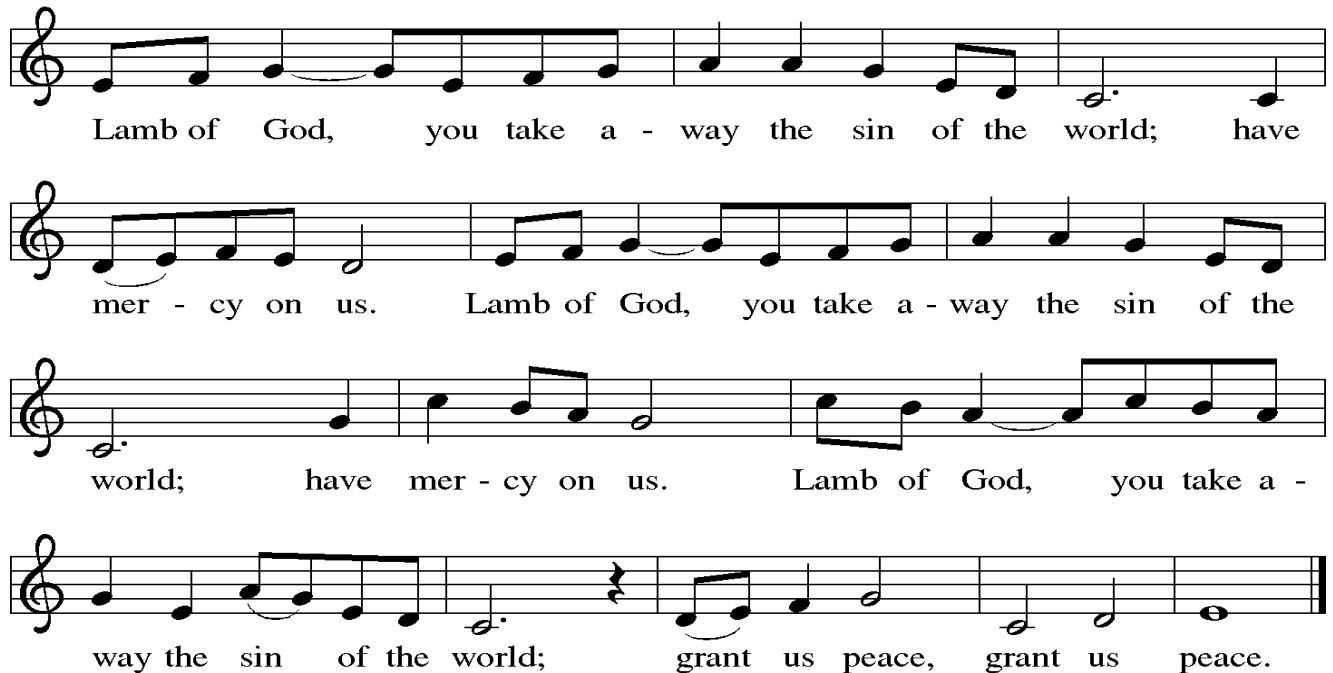
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of
the cups and packaging after the service.*

Paper bags for the disposal of cups and packaging are available on the communion rail.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution:

Organ Meditation – *I Come with Joy* – arr. Gilbert Martin

Hymn (11:10) #482 – *I Come with Joy*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING *

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING *

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING HYMN #452 *

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

DISMISSAL *

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord with love and forgiveness in your hearts.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on AZMON – arr. Paul Manz

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Tim Iseringhausen, Lead Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Dave Woodyard, 8:00 Lector & Communion Assistant
Bev Sapienza, 11:10 Lector & Communion Assistant
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Samuel Owens, Cantor
Jane McFadden, Chancel Choir Accompanist

FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in memory of her parents, Robert and Virginia Morrison,
by Donna Morrison and Ben.*

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