

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary 24 A

September 13, 2020 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 24 A

In today's gospel reading, Jesus commands us to forgive one another. It is the heart of the gospel and the distinctive character of Christian life. Out of love for us in our weakness and sin, God forgives us, heals us, and strengthens us to be a forgiving people. This is a challenging life, to live forgiveness for each other, as Jesus' parable shows. But as Paul says today, "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 our life of forgiveness is for the sake of Christ, and the sake of the other, the face of Christ for us.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: "Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies' Sake" R. Farrant, J. Hilton
Recorded by singers of the Cantorei on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 867, "In Thee Is Gladness"
*Introduction recorded at Mount Olive at the funeral Eucharist for Marcella Daehn, June 3, 2013.
Stanzas sung at Mount Olive on the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 17 B, July 29, 2018.*

Word

GREETING

KYRIE: *Sung by the choir in a setting by Denis Bedard*
Recorded on the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 17 B, July 29, 2018. Sung by the Men's Ensemble of Mount Olive.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Apostolic greeting is on the video)*

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: Exodus 14:19-31; reader – Steve Berg, lector

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

PSALM: Psalm 114 *Sing along with the leaders in the video; the tone is there.*

Recorded by members of the Cantorei on Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

¹ Hallelujah! When Israel came ¹ out of Egypt, * the house of Jacob from a people ¹ of strange speech,

² Judah became God's ¹ sanctuary * and Israel ¹ God's dominion.

³ The sea beheld ¹ it and fled; * Jordan turned ¹ and went back.

⁴ The mountains ¹ skipped like rams, * and the little hills ¹ like young sheep.

⁵ What ailed you, O sea, ¹ that you fled, * O Jordan, that ¹ you turned back,

⁶ you mountains, that you ¹ skipped like rams, * you little hills ¹ like young sheep?

⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence ¹ of the LORD, * at the presence of the ¹ God of Jacob,

⁸ who turned the hard rock into a ¹ pool of water * and flint-stone into a ¹ flowing spring!

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12; reader – Paul Odlaug, assisting minister

Paul writes: ¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 174, "Celtic Alleluia"

Sung before and after the Gospel reading.

Sung at Mount Olive on the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 18 B, August 5, 2018.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ 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?" ²² Jesus 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. ²⁴ When 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. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ 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.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to you all, if you all do not forgive each of your siblings from your hearts."

SERMON

Belonging

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Silence for reflection

HYMN: ELW 359, "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

Introduction recorded at Mount Olive on the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 25 B, September 20, 2015. **Stanza 1:** sung at Mount Olive on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, year B, May 3, 2015. **Stanzas 2 and 3:** sung on the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 23 A, Sept. 10, 2017.

WELCOME OF VICAR ANDREA BONNEVILLE & COMMISSIONING OF VICAR COMMITTEE

Commitment of the Vicar and the Congregation

Almighty God, who has given you the will . . . compassion to perform them.

Amen

People of God . . . in the Church of Jesus Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for Andrea . . . in the peace and unity of Christ?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Commissioning of the Vicar Committee

People of God . . . to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

I now commission . . . faithful servants of Christ.

Amen

Let us pray. Gracious God . . . Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

GIFT OF BIBLES TO OUR CHILDREN *Response: **Amen.***

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Paul Odlaug, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.** Please add to your prayers this morning **Liz Beissel** and **John Wall**, both of whom had surgery.*

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER

Pray the Lord's Prayer together.

BLESSING *Response: Amen*

HYMN: ELW 452, "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

Sung at Mount Olive at the Lent Procession Service on the First Sunday in Lent, March 5, 2017.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☐ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Praeludium in g minor

Franz Tunder

Recorded at Mount Olive on the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 27 A, October 5, 2014.



In Our Prayers

- *Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: John Wall, Liz Beissel, Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Victor Gebauer; Leanna Kloempken; Mary Lee; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Dan & Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, Reba Zumberge, relatives of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Nancy Stelling, friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Logan Bushaw, friend of Allen & Lora Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Asher Strong, friend of Gene Janssen; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Nicole Sanders and Ann Clark, daughter and friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Todd Erickson, friend of Jean & Doug Parish; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Scott Kingman, father of Anna Scott; Miranda*

and Nathan Alvis, niece and nephew of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Norlene Bateman, aunt of Ted Thompson; Jennifer Kobylinski, cousin of Kathy Thurston; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Weichman, Levi Boswell, son and nephew of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilkes and Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Trisha Niemi-Haapaja, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy Bonnes, Jan Harper (spouse of former Mount Olive vicar, the late Jean Hay); Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

- **In hospice care:** Dan Adams.
- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Daniel Dahl, Evan Peterson, Mona Volden, Holly Wiedenhoeft, and Stephen Nelson.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.