FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020

Trinity Free Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

INTROIT: PSALM 143:1-2, 9 (ESV)

1 Hear my prayer, O LORD;
give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

2 Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.

9 ***Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!***
I have fled to you for refuge.

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word. We pray that You will open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake.

Amen.

#217: "FROM ALL THAT DWELL BELOW THE SKIES"

1 From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise:
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
Thro' ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.

2 Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord!
Eternal truth attends Thy word:
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

CONFESSION OF SIN

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9) And so with confidence we bow before the Lord to confess our sins.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us!
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us!
O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us!

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives power to become sons of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, LORD, to us all.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: GENESIS 50:15-21 (ESV)

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.

EPISTLE LESSON: ROMANS 14:1-12 (ESV)

1 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let 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. 4 Who 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.

5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The 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. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For 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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 Why 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; 11 for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God."

12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall 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.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Kathryn Greene

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING RESPONSE

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be.
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust O Lord from Thee. Amen.

#416: "THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY"

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner,
And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior;
There is healing in His blood.

2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heav'n;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment giv'n.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

3 For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 18:21-35 (ESV)

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."

SERMON: "NO SECOND CHANCES"

#396: "I LAY MY SINS ON JESUS"

1 I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us
From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus,
To wash my crimson stains
White in His blood most precious,
Till not a spot remains.

2 I lay my wants on Jesus;
All fullness dwells in Him:
He heals all my diseases,
He doth my soul redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares:
He from them all releases,
He all my sorrows shares.

3 I long to be like Jesus,
Meek, loving, lowly, mild:
I long to be like Jesus,
The Father's holy Child.
I long to be with Jesus,
Amid the heav'nly throng,
To sing with saints His praises,
To learn the angels' song.

THE 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 (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

Amen. Amen. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Welcome to our worship service this morning!

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Opportunities for the Week

Mon., Sept. 14	Deacons Meeting	6:30 pm
	Council Meeting	7:00 pm
Wed., Sept. 16	Hebrews Bible Study (on site and via Zoom)	7:00 pm
Sun., Sept. 20	"Behold His Glory" KNOX 1310 AM	7:30 am
	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Divine Worship	10:30 am
	Special offering for AFLC Schools (on site and at trinityfreegf.org/sermons)	
	Congregational Meeting following worship	

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Dates to Remember

Sunday School will resume September 20th at 9:30 am. PreK – 5th grade will meet in the Fellowship Hall for opening exercises and classes. 6th – 12th grade will meet in the high school room. Adults will meet in the sanctuary. For safety purposes, we ask that 2nd – 12th grades wear masks. Teachers and students will practice social distancing, proper hygiene, and disinfecting during class. Questions? Concerns? Contact a member of the Christian Ed Board: Frieda Larson, Alicia Antal, or Jennifer Dryburgh.
Thanks! The Christian Ed Board.

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Remember to pray for those who are hurting or sick, those who have lost a loved one, young families with children, our nation, the AFLC, members & friends of Trinity, Pastor Dan and Alicia Antal.

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09/06 Attn: 37**; Offering:** $2,463; **Radio**: $20
09/20 Texts: Isa. 55:6-9; Phil. 1:12-14, 19-30; Matt. 20:1-16
Sept. Music: Delores Clark