



For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

*Psalm 103:11*

## **Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

September 13, 2020

*Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel*

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.

*The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God  
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through  
worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.*

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Ten*

*The paraments are green during the season of Pentecost to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.*

## **✠ GATHERING ✠**

### **ACCLAMATION**

William Stevens

Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous;  
your sins are forgiven on account of his name. Alleluia.  
(1 John 2:1, 12)

### **OPENING PRELUDE** Sonata in D Major, K. 144

W.A. Mozart

Susan Perkins & Katherine Wiley, violin; Evan Richey, cello

*We stand.*

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*We stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters the sanctuary, following the cross as we have followed Jesus into this holy place and time of corporate worship.*

# GATHERING HYMN 654 The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

*Sung by the Adult Choirs*



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song,  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900  
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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.**

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer- cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



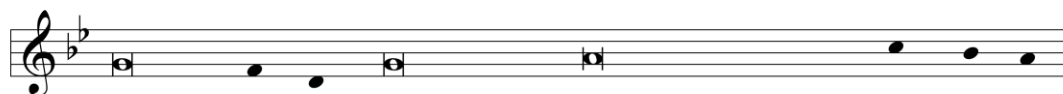
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



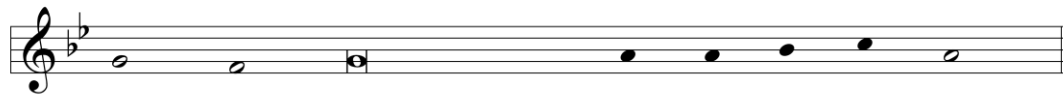
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### *Refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

### *Refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God; you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

### *Refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the



glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men, a - - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

*After the prayer the assembly responds:* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## WELCOME

## TEMPLE TALK

Frank James

# ✠ WORD ✠

## FIRST READING Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing 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?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, '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. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even 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. So 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. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 103:8-13

- <sup>8</sup>Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;  
<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.  
<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.  
<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.  
<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

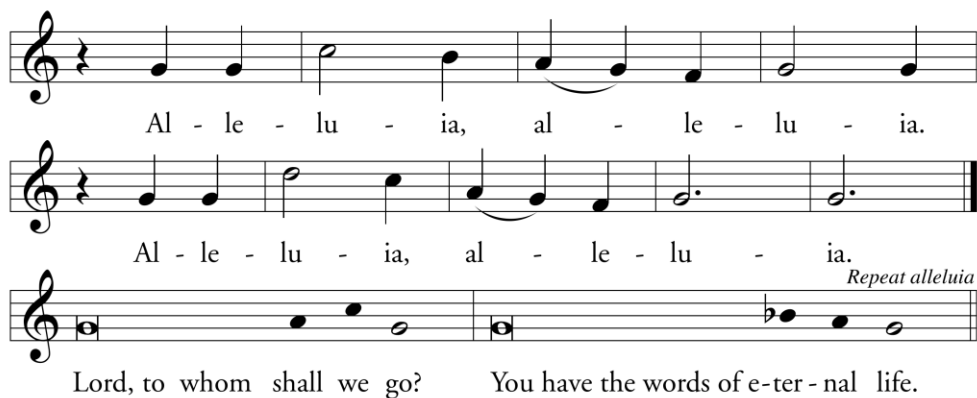
## SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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 then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 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. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



## **GOSPEL** Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So 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.**

*We sit.*


## **SERMON**

Pastor Wollner

*We stand.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY 389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing


DUKE STREET



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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## APOSTLES' CREED

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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*Each portion of the prayers concludes:*

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.**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

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

*We sit.*

# ✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM Gentle Words

Text: Sister Polly M. Rupe

Music: Carol McClure


What the dew is to the flower, Gentle words are to the soul.  
Such a blessing to your neighbor You should never withhold.

Gentle words, so kindly spoken, Often soothe the troubled mind;  
While a friendship can be broken By words that are unkind.

Ever-loving, Gentle Spirit, Thou my constant guardian be;  
So that I might do to others As I'd have them do to me.

*We stand.*

### OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and  
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion and up - hold me with your free spir - it.

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

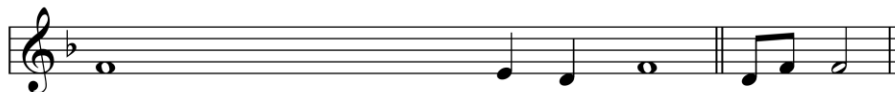
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

## BLESSING



The Lord bless you ... and ✠ give you peace.     **A - men.**

# SENDING HYMN 867 In Thee Is Gladness

IN DIR IST FREUDE



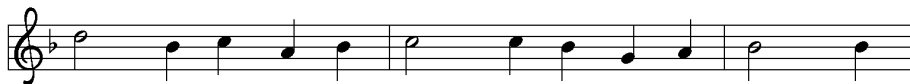
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my  
2 Je-sus is ours! . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the  
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou  
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly  
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are  
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,  
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!  
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING POSTLUDE** In dir ist Freude, BWV 615

J.S. Bach

Joshua Sobel, Music Intern, *organ*

## ***Soli Deo Gloria***

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## Announcements

**The altar flowers are given to the glory of God** and in honor of Jay and Barbara Wise's 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary today, by their children and their families.

**This week we keep in prayer Eleanor Regenthal**, 7551 Fair Oaks Drive, #113B, Clemmons, NC 27012. Please send **Eleanor** a note.

**Rally Day is Today and Sunday School** classes start!

**Bible study continues Tuesday, September 15** with week two of Pastor Paul's four-week course called "Finding the Triune God in Scripture." A Zoom link will be sent via Flocknote.

**Wine & Word Live Zoom Q & A** with the Rev. Joanne Engquist, will take place Tuesday, September 15, at 7:00 p.m. Look for a YouTube video link via Flocknote.

**The book discussion on *The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism*** by Jemar Tisby continues this Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. A link will be sent out Wednesday afternoon. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Lori at [pastoralassociate@alcws.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@alcws.org)

**Please remember to send in your family photos** for the next family directory. Please email them to Kathy Barnes at [kathy@alcws.org](mailto:kathy@alcws.org). If you need help with a photo, let us know and we'll arrange for a photographer to contact you. If you are interested in being a photographer, contact Shari Dominguez at [sdominguez@triad.rr.com](mailto:sdominguez@triad.rr.com)

**Submissions for the October Beacon** should be emailed to Kathy Barnes at [kathy@alcws.org](mailto:kathy@alcws.org) before noon Friday, September 25.

**Dessert with Pastor Lori continues this evening** from 7:30-8:15 p.m. A Zoom Room has been set up so that members from our congregation can click on the link sent out via Flocknote. Today is National Grandparents Day. Our topic tonight will be to share a memory of one of your grandparents. You can come early, stay as little or as long as you like, and leave when you are ready. Come prepared to have some fun.

**Altar Flower Dedications.** Thank you to everyone who contributes to the beautiful altar flowers each week. If you are interested in dedicating flowers as a memorial or in honor of a loved one, please call the church office for more information. We currently have open slots for Nov. 22, and 29, and Dec. 13 and 27. The total cost of both bouquets is \$80.

**We keep you in prayer during our time apart.** Our pastors continue to be available for your pastoral care needs. If you would like to reach a pastor, please call their cell phones, send them a text, or an email. Pastor Paul is 803-331-5970 or [seniorpastor@alcws.org](mailto:seniorpastor@alcws.org) and Pastor Lori is 336-414-2838 or [pastoralassociate@alcws.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@alcws.org)



**God's work continues at Augsburg,** and while we can't gather in person, our hands can still help carry out that work wherever we are through our love and our resources. Because important ministries continue during our facilities closure, offerings can still be shared through any of these suggested options: drop it in the mail, use the bill pay services that your bank offers, or use Realm to give online. Visit our website—[www.augsburglutheran-ws.org](http://www.augsburglutheran-ws.org)—and click on “Give Now” for more information. Thank you for all the ways that you support God's work at Augsburg, your Stewardship Team.

**Readings for next week:** Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30;  
Matthew 20:1-16

**Worship attendance for services last week: 260** views on **YouTube.**

### **Providing Service Today**

*Bulletin Cover Artist*

Lynnleigh Voight

*Lay Reader*

Kathie Eppert

*Preaching*

Pastor Wollner

*Quartet*

Karen Kookan, Daniele Olsen, Timothy Olsen, Bruce Tippet

*Instrumentalists*

Susan Perkins & Katherine Wiley, violin; Evan Richey, cello

*Greeters*

Art and Carol Kainz

*Assisting Minister*

Pastor Carter







## **AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod*

Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Kathy Barnes, Administrative Assistant

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Faith Formation

Bruce Tippet, Youth Music and Handbell Dir.

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Paul Anders, WFU Divinity Student Intern

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

*Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*