LUTHERAN CHAPEL



MATTHEW 18:21-35

"FORGIVENESS"

The church is a community of forgiven sinners. Let go of the hurt. Practice the Word of Christ and forgive as He has forgiven you.

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

lutheranchapelchurch.org (704) 864-6491

LUTHERAN CHAPEL SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

BOLD indicates congregational responses.

GATHER

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

Psalm 122:1; Psalm 127:1; Genesis 28:16-17

P: We gather together in the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: I was glad when they said unto me,

C: let us go to the house of the Lord!

P: I was glad when they said unto me,

C: let us go to the house of the Lord!

P: Unless the Lord builds the house,

C: in vain do the builders labor.

P: Unless the Lord builds the house,

C: in vain do the builders labor.

P: Surely the Lord is in this place.

C: This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!

P: Surely the Lord is in this place.

C: This is the house of God, this is the gate of heaven!

P: Oh, come let us worship!

C: Oh, come let us worship! Oh, come let us worship! Oh, come let us worship!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"



Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

GENESIS 1:2-2:3

The Lord creates all that is and calls us to walk with Him, to care for the good earth, and to be fruitful and multiply.

²The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the

darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my being bless His name; Bless the Lord, and forget not His benefits.

Refrain:

 He pardons all your iniquities, and comforts your sorrows, Redeems your life from destruction, and crowns you with His kindness.

Refrain:

 Merciful, merciful, and gracious is our God; Slow to anger, abounding in kindness.

Refrain:

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SECOND READING

ROMANS 14:1-2

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Response after the announcement:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE

"Forgiveness"

On Creation

The Story of Aunt Milica

What Exactly is Forgiveness?

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power: I cannot forgive as our Lord Jesus forgives. I need divine strength to forgive.

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' *ultimate saving power:* I am a forgiven sinner by the gift of Jesus. Lord, strengthen me to forgive.

On Discipleship: Ask for forgiveness daily. Seek to forgive when you have been wronged. What is your take away for your walk with Christ?



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842 Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.

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RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will 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.

P: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith:

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. Jude 20

P: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jude 21

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God.

C: have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one 2 Corinthians 13:11 another, live in peace.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

P: 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 (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Prayers conclude:

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

C: Amen.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Matthew 5:22-24: Ephesians 4:1-3

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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.

SENDING

THE BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"O Christ, Our Hope"



Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt. Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561 DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

+ + + + + + + +

OUR ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Henry and Debra Hoffman in honor of their 46th Wedding Anniversary.



PARISH NEWS

WORSHIP SERVICES: In-person worship for the 10:30 service is being held at <u>limited capacity</u>. For those who are unable to attend due to personal circumstances or choose to refrain from gatherings, please pray on-line using one of the streaming options available: Facebook, YouTube or from the church website. As we continue in these days of the pandemic, changes to the service will be observed to do our best to be safe while gathering. <u>Please note that facemasks are required to be worn indoors while in public per a mandate by the state.</u>

SUNDAY SCHOOL: An on-line Sunday School lesson will be held via Zoom Sunday mornings at 9:00. Please email Steve Laws at <u>stephenclaws@gmail.com</u> to sign up.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY: The Community Bible Study is studying the Gospel of John all across the world. It's all virtual, everywhere and on the web site <u>www.communitybiblestudy.org</u> you can find a class. The women's day in Gastonia has new meetings September 2, 9, 16 and the first Wednesday of every month through March. It's never too late to join!!!! Men's group starts September 15. You can even create family core groups this year since it's virtual. A great opportunity!!!! God is truly working.

ATTENTION LADIES: You are invited to a SOCIAL DISTANCING PICNIC on <u>Monday, September 14 at 6:00 pm</u> in the pavilion. If you plan to attend, we ask that you please bring a bag supper, wear a mask and bring a chair for social distancing. The WELCA will furnish water and canned drinks. We hope you will attend and use this time to fellowship with all our church friends. We have missed everyone and hope to see you there. *This is for ALL ladies of the church.*

SPROUTS: Sprouts will resume their fall youth group *meetings via zoom for the month of September*. We will continue our schedule of the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. Our next meeting will be **September 16th**. Amy will email the zoom link the week of each meeting. If you are not receiving Amy's emails, please contact her at <u>amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org</u>.

NEWSLETTER: Articles for the October newsletter are due by **September 21**.

CHILDREN'S/YOUTH CHOIR & HANDBELLS: With the Covid-19 restrictions in place, the start time for handbells and children's/youth choir cannot be scheduled at this time. I will be sending out information as soon as I am able. Parents and ringers, please be looking for emails from me. I've been working on music for the Fall and Christmas and the handbells are being refurbished at this time. Love and miss you all! ~*Mrs. M*

OWLS BACKYARD BIRD WATCHING: As the fall season approaches, Amy would like to begin a bird watching club. If you are interested in participating, simply take a picture of birds you find in your backyard, identify them, and send the info to Amy. She will share your discoveries in her daily OWLS message board via email.

CLOTHING CLOSET: If you are interested in volunteering at the Clothing Closet, contact Kay Robinson. Please note that donations <u>are not</u> being accepted at this time and the Clothing Closet <u>will not</u> be open to the public until further notice except for emergency appointments only.

CATAWBA RIVERSWEEP: On Saturday, **October 3**rd, <u>Roots Youth Group</u> will be participating in the Catawba Riversweep service project from 9am to12pm. Parents of Roots youth, please continue to check your email for updates from Amy as she is still awaiting further information from the organization.

A STUDY OF C.S. LEWIS: During the upcoming church season, our <u>women's book</u> <u>club</u> will be delving into the works and life of C.S. Lewis. Our first novel will be *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Our first meeting will be on **Thursday, October 22nd at 6 p.m.** at the church picnic pavilion. Please contact Amy at <u>amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org</u> if you are interested in attending this book club session.

CAM FOOD DRIVE: The fellowship has graciously donated **599 bags** of food to Crisis Assistance Ministry since April, thanks be to God! The collection continues as the need is still great in Gaston County. Let us help all we can!

TITHES & OFFERINGS: There are several options to send in your tithes & offerings each week. You can utilize your offering envelopes (or a regular envelope) to mail or drop off in the <u>locked mailbox</u> at educational building. Or you can give on-line through our church website: lutheranchapelchurch.org, top right-hand corner "give" which is a link to Easy Tithe. Any questions or concerns call our Treasurer, Ed Robinson.

DAILY PRAYER

EACH MORNING AND EVENING, PRAY TO THE LORD. (Psalm 1:2) A prayer list, daily lessons to read the Bible together each year, and a song of praise are below. The *"Our Daily Bread"* devotional is available as a booklet, an app in eBook format, daily e-mail, or podcast. Visit odb.org/subscribe. Fill out a prayer card to share or notify the church office with concerns.

PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Braylon Beam, B.T. Bradley, Donna Carpenter, Jerry Carpenter, Hunter Clark, Tonya Dowdy, Lynda Ellington, Kathy Finch, Paulette Hale, Helen Hoffman, Henry Hoffman, Dru Huffstickler, Robert Park, Betty Petty, Terry Ratchford, Fran Rice, Joan Riddle, Barbara Robinson, Bill Robinson, and **the family of Martin Stamm**.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Ruth Benoy, Vera Beutler, Baby Ellis Brown, **Pebbles Cloninger**, Amelia Edwards, Garry and Carole Farmer, Jamison Franklin, Harriet Grantham, Frieda and Shelton Harper, Travis Hogue, Mary Jackson, Paula Kadel, Ernie Kincaid, Dave and Crystal Lanning, Suzanne Ledford, Bill McCullen, Lee Norris, Sam & Lara Rasanen, Paul Reaves, Craig Rooney, Pat Rudisill, Martin Salois, Pastor Peter Setzer, Meredith Scruggs, Charlene Sorenson, Jim Warren, Dana Williams, and Lulu Zizak.

WEEK 38: SEPTEMBER 13, 2020 to SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

09/13 Morning Reading: 2 Corinthians 6—Evening Reading: Proverbs 16, 17, 18

09/14 Morning Reading: 2 Corinthians 7—Evening Reading: Proverbs 19, 20, 21

09/15 Morning Reading: 2 Corinthians 8—Evening Reading: Proverbs 22, 23, 24

- 09/16 Morning Reading: 2 Corinthians 9—Evening Reading: Proverbs 25, 26
- 09/17 Morning Reading: 2 Corinthians 10—Evening Reading: Proverbs 27, 28, 29
- 09/18 Morning Reading: 2 Corinthians 11:1-15—Evening Reading: Proverbs 30, 31
- 09/19 Morning Reading: 2 Corinthians 11:16-33—Evening Reading: Ecclesiastes 1, 2, 3
- 09/20 Morning Reading: 2 Corinthians 12—Evening Reading: Ecclesiastes 4, 5, 6

Song Of Praise *"Amazing Grace"* ELW #779

Next Sunday, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

8:30 Early Service: Genesis 3:1-7, 14-24 ~ "The Fall"

9:00 Zoom Sunday School: God Builds a Nation

10:30 Holy Communion Service: Matthew 20:1-16 ~ "Unfair Mercy"

<u>Note</u>: *daily*Lectio.net provides the complete Revised Common Lectionary for both Sunday and daily lessons.

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that list the commemorations for the week.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

Sun-13	8:30 am	Early Service w/ Communion (Memorial Chapel)
	9:00 am	Sunday School via Zoom
	10:30 am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	11:30 am	Congregational Council Meeting (Pavilion)
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Pavilion)
Mon-14	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Preschool WELCA Picnic (Pavilion)
Tues-15	8:30 am 10:00 am	Preschool Clothing Closet Workday
Wed-16	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Preschool Sprouts via Zoom

Thur-17 8:30 am Preschool

We are so happy you joined us for worship this morning. Please fill out the information below and leave this page in the pew following the service. Thank you!