

Lord, how often
should I forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2017

10:45 a.m.

Welcome! If this is your first time worshipping at Grace Lutheran, the Visitor Center in the Gathering Hall (right outside the sanctuary) has information for you about our congregation. Please sign the guest book, ask questions, say hello! We invite you to join us for coffee, tea, and donuts in Grace Hall between services. The greeters, ushers, or announcement sheet will happily fill you in on education hour offerings, Sunday school, and the teen hangout.

If you are interested in finding out more about **membership** at Grace, please contact Pastor Mike at Mike@gracedm.org, 515-276-6873.

We worship together in many ways: Standing, sitting, singing, speaking, listening. You are invited to worship in as many (or few) ways as you are comfortable and able. **When following along in the bulletin, the congregation is invited to read the items in bold (often marked with a C:) aloud.**

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. Please sign the **Attendance Registration** sheets which are found in each pew.

Children belong and are welcome in worship! Children's bulletins are available from the ushers, and activity bags are available outside the doors to the sanctuary. If your children become restless, the service is broadcast in the Gathering Hall so you may still watch and participate together. The nursery is available for newborns to age 3 and is staffed by Grace Kids Care staff members.

Communion – We welcome all people to the Lord's table to receive Holy Communion. Children ages 3 and above are welcome at the parents' discretion, after meeting for instruction with the pastor. Children not instructed are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are not able to come forward to take communion, please notify an usher before the service. Then try to sit by the aisle and the pastor will commune you in your pew.

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one care giving ministry for those experiencing personal problems such as grieving or crisis situations. If you would like to be connected to a Stephen Minister, please contact the office for assistance.

Please stand as you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God... in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

#656

Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

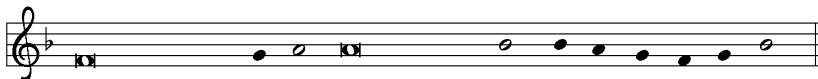
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



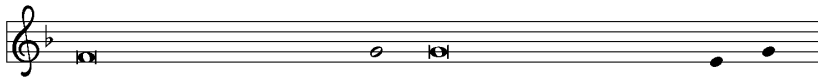
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



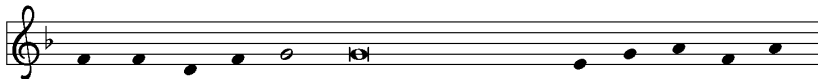
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



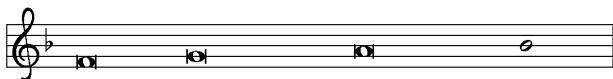
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,



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



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. 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. 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.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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.**

Please be seated

Presentation of Bibles

Kindergarten- Brett Beaman, Declan Holst, Henry Jordahl, Evan Justice, Elijah Lund, Jaxsen Traver, and Easton Ziska

Third Grade-Gabriella Artzer, Ava Lund, Victoria Meillier, and Maycia Welty

Sixth Grade- Ella Oberhart, Charla Preston, and Laynne Weber

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.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Children Sermon

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

You are invited to read the lines in bold responsively.

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

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

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

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with**

steadfast love and mercy;

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;

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.

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Eighteenth Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: 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.

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?”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 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

Please be seated

Sermon

“The Start of Worship”

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

#609

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 the People

L: Lord, in your mercy

C:

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray. Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray." The music is a simple, homophonic setting with block chords and a steady bass line.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

All: God of love, have mercy on us. Pour out your Spirit upon us. Center us in worship. Hold us in grace. Strengthen us in love. Send us forth in mission. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: And also with you!

Please be seated

Announcements

Temple Talk

The Offering
Offertory

He Is Our Peace

Carol Tornquist

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

C: Amen

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

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

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**

Invitation to Communion

P: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

Please be seated

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



Distribution Hymns 471, 472(3x), 474, 479

Please stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

P: Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. Bless those who share this meal with others. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Go, My Children, With My Blessing” #543

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude Blessed Assurance Bruce Greer

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers – The People of God

Pastor –

The Rev. Michael Schmidtmike@gracedm.org

Minister for Worship and Music –

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Ushers – Bill Jensen and Jay Wangerin

Acolytes –

Liturgist –

Lector – Felicia Adams

Altar Guild – Carol Woodruff and Gail Peterson

Counters – Chris Lawson and Tom McCleary

Coffee – Karen Taylor



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