

St. Luke's Lutheran Church (Obelisk)
3206 Big Road
Zieglerville, PA 19492



September 13, 2020

P: Pastor C: Congregation

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

Greeting

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God, grace,
mercy, and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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: 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.

Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

[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; R**
⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
⁶**O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**
⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.]
⁸**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R**
⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**
¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O
LORD. R

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

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.

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?" 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; ²⁵and, 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."

Message

The 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.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 And also with you.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
 You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
 Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,
 nourish us with this rich food and drink,
 and send us forth to set tables in the midst
 of a suffering world,
 through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

Blessing

Eternal God,
 Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
 bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.
 Amen.

I Will Follow

Where You go, I'll go, where You stay, I'll stay
 When You move, I'll move, I will follow
 Ah, Ah, Ah

All Your ways are good, all Your ways are sure
 I will trust in You alone
 Higher than my sight, high above my life
 I will trust in You alone, in You alone

Chorus

Where You go, I'll go, where You stay, I'll stay
 When You move, I'll move, I will follow You
 Who You love, I'll love, how You serve, I'll serve
 If this life I lose, I will follow You
 Yeah, I will follow You, yeah

Light unto the world, Light unto my life
 I will live for You alone
 You're the one I seek, knowing I will find

All I need in You alone, in You alone
Repeat Chorus

Bridge

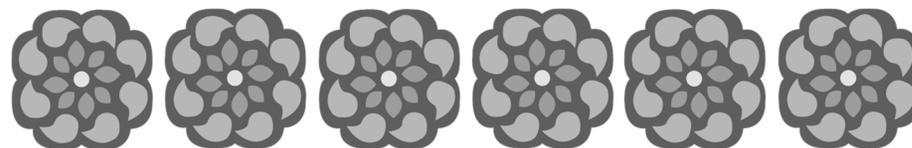
In You there's life everlasting
 In You there's freedom for my soul
 In You there's joy, unending joy and I will follow
REPEAT CHORUS 2X

End

I will follow You, yeah, I will follow you, yeah
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
 Thanks be to God.



Our expenses continue even though the building are closed. We ask that you continue to support the church with your weekly offerings.

There are many ways to remotely continue giving to St. Luke's:

- Go to the church's website: stlukeslutheran.church. At the top of the webpage click on the "Online Giving" button. Fill out the online giving form.
- Use your personal bank's auto-pay function
- If you have a PayPal account you can send money to St. Luke's using the email: payables@stlukeslutheran.church
- Mail a check to the church: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3206 Big Road, Zieglerville, PA 19492