



As We Gather

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 13, 2020

We live in a world filled with uncertainty, and much of this uncertainty is so personal. Who we are and what it is that gives our lives identity, meaning, and purpose go to the very heart of the questions for our times. Today, Paul reminds us that we belong to the Lord. Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Being the Lord's own is what shapes our self-understanding and defines how we relate to one another. All the things that divide us on earth and how we are tempted to identify ourselves by preference or desire are overcome by the Lord, who suffered for us, died to save us, and lives to set us free. This love makes it possible for us to see others as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Mesquite Lutheran Church & Preschool and Childcare

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A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones. Thank You.

PRELUDE
WELCOME

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN #790 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

INVOCATION

- L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence for self-examination.

- L Let us confess our sins to God, confident of His grace and forgiveness to all who are penitent.

C I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

- L In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God Forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12; Philippians 1:6*

C Amen.

WORD

INTROIT Psalm 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9

L Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C I have fled to you for refuge!

L Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

L Enter not into judgment with your servant,

C for no one living is righteous before you.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

L Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C I have fled to you for refuge!

KYRIE

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For peace in the world, for the health and well-being of the Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the hungry, the homeless, the poor, the oppressed, and all who are in need, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the richness of God's peace in our hearts, for peace within our homes and congregations, and that we may live in peace with all people, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the guidance of the Spirit, for the strengthening of our faith, and for the courage to give bold witness to the Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the Lord to nourish our souls with the blessed food of His Word and Table and for grace that what we here receive we may keep in holy lives, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, God of mercy. Remembering the faithful, who have loved and served the Lord and now rest from their labors, let us commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Glory Be to God on High”

1 “Glo - ry be to God on high!” This is now our
joy - ful cry. Peace to all who live on earth,
Grace and fa - vor for new birth. You we praise and
glo - ri - fy, Wor - ship You, O Lord most high.
Gra - cious Fa - ther, heav’n - ly King, To Your name a -
lone we sing: Praise the glo - ry of Your name,
Now and ev - er - more the same!

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SALUTATION

- L The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L Let us pray.
Gracious Lord, You have rescued us from our bondage to sin and given us a new life and identity in Baptism. Grant us Your grace that we live in peace with all people and show to those around us the same forgiveness that You have shown to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As 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. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING Romans 14:1–12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let 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. ⁴Who 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. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The 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. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why 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; ¹¹for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE Matthew 6:14

**All: Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will
Also forgive you. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:21–35

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. ²³“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And 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. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.’ ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When 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. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY 649 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

SERMON “The Bigger Picture” Genesis 50: 15-21

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, 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, grant that we not judge without mercy but forgive without limit, that we who have known the fullness of Your mercy in Christ also manifest a compassionate heart against those who sin against us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

[*Petitions...*] **L** Lord, in Your mercy **C** **hear our prayer.**

L Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

L 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.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #643 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

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PRAYER LIST: Reina Love Ramirez, hospital (infant daughter of Sindia Ramirez, Preschool teacher); Turk Chaney, healing; Melissa Chaney, hospital; Jim Arney, healing; Deedee Halterman, lung cancer, sister-in-law of Maggie and George Halterman; Velda, breast cancer, friend of Sophie Hood; Rebecca Armstrong(17), open heart surgery, friend of Sophie Hood; Lucy Brookshire, cancer, sister of Nancy Schleiger; Lyle Powelson, kidney cancer; Harold Holtz, cancer treatments; Karen Droubay, cancer, friend of Reeds; Tom Stettler, Southern Utah Veterans Home; the homebound.

For the good of others, please observe 6' social distancing. Masks are encouraged (provide your own). Hand sanitizer is available in the entryway. For those at greatest risk with additional health problems, we urge to remain at home and view services online until Covid is no longer a threat. If you are feeling ill in any way, please remain at home.

8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. service available online at our Facebook page (live and recorded - @MesquiteLCC). You do not need a Facebook account to view. Go to facebook.com/MesquiteLCC/live.

No Adult Bible Study Wed. Sept. 16. Adult Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and resumes 9/23.

BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 13 Suzanne Saltzman
Sept. 17 Barbara Coverdale
Sept. 23 Bob Sennett
Sept. 28 Den Hood
Sept. 30 O.J. Johnson

Sept. 15 Juls Gerads
Sept. 20 Bonnie Gloe
Sept. 27 Georgia Townsend
Sept. 29 Ila Larson

ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 16 Tom & Barbara Coverdale
Sept. 22 Paul & Claudia Havens
Sept. 30 Kenneth & Nancy Schleiger

Sept. 20 Harold & Bonnie Holtz
Sept. 24 Marvin & Judy Ferdina

Acknowledgments

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