

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2107 Three Oaks Rd, Cary, IL  
September 12 & 13, 2020  
**Observing the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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Inspired by Christ • Serving under Christ • Growing in Christ

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Order of Service from Setting Four, page 203 in the Lutheran Service Book

OPENING HYMN

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

LSB 845

**Where charity and love prevail there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love by love are we thus bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear God's charity we learn;  
Let us with heart and mind and soul now love Him in return.**

**Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess,  
And let us love each other well in Christian holiness.**

**Let strife among us be unknown; let all contention cease;  
Be God's the glory that we seek; be ours God's holy peace.**

**Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, His only Son;  
As members of His body joined we are in Him made one.**

**For love excludes no race or clan that names the Savior's name;  
His family embraces all whose Father is the same.**

*Jn. 13:1-17; 1 Jn. 4:7-21; Eph. 4:29-32*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.** *Psalms 124:8*

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Psalms 130:3-4*

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *Luke 18:13*

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.** *John 20:19-23*

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to You for refuge! Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with Your servant, for no one living is righteous before You. 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. Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to You for refuge!

*Psalms 143:1-2, 9*

**Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

**To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;  
goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing--  
our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heavenly King.**

**To you, O sole-begotten, the Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us Jesus; receive our heart-felt cry,  
Where you in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high--**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with You.**

P: Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

When 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." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: '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. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As 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. So 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 LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let 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. Who 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. One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The 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. For none of us lives to

himself, and none of us dies to himself. For 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, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Why 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; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So 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.**

THE ALLELUIA

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** *John 20:31*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

LSB 843

**"Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord, to pray;  
But You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.**

**How can Your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart,  
That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light Your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:  
What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;  
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.**

*Luke 11:4; Matt. 5:23-24; 18:21-35; Eph. 4:31-32*

SERMON: "Justice or Mercy?" *Matthew 18:21-35*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.** *Colossians 3:1*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** *Psalm 136*

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto You O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

THE SANCTUS *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored,  
heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give you thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Here us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

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

**C: Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *John 1:29*

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“What is This Bread?”

LSB 629

**What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead: This bread we break, this life we take,  
Was crushed to pay for our release. Oh, taste and see--the Lord is peace.**

**What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine; the cup of grace brings His embrace  
Of life and love until I sing! Oh, taste and see--the Lord is King.**

**So who am I, that I should live and He should die under the rod? My God, my God,  
Why have You not forsaken me? Oh, taste and see--the Lord is free.**

**Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear, in mouth and soul He makes us whole--  
Christ, truly present in this meal. Oh, taste and see--the Lord is real.**

**Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free! I do believe that I receive  
His very body and His blood. Oh, taste and see--the Lord is good.**

*1 Cor. 11:23-29; Ps. 34:8; 1 Peter 2:2-3*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

NUNC DIMITTIS *Luke 2:29-32*

**O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles unto your holy hill, the glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son, all glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;  
for as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding through all eternity.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore  
You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love  
toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

**Love in Christ is strong and living, binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving, may His will in us be done.**

**Love is patient and forbearing, clothed in Christ’s humility,  
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, reaching out in charity.**

**Love in Christ abides forever, fainting not when ills attend;  
Love, forgiving and forgiven, shall endure until life’s end.**

*Col. 3:12-14; 1 Cor. 13; Eph. 4:2, 32*