

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2020

Worship Focus

The Christian Faith, One Word at a Time: Freedom

Christ
hath
made
us
free.



Galatians 5:1

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Order of Service for
**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
 PENTECOST**

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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✠ **Gathering** ✠

OPENING HYMN

392 - Not unto Us



1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry,
 2 A - maz - ing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were
 3 O faith - ful love— that shep - herd - ed through faith - less
 4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry,



Lord; Not un - to us but to your name be praise;
 made; A - maz - ing grace— that sent your Son to save;
 years; For - giv - ing love— that led us to your truth;
 Lord, For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.



Not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be
 A - maz - ing grace— that robed us in your right - eous -
 Un - yield - ing love— that would not let us turn from
 A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and



giv'n For match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.
 ness And taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.
 you But sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.
 done, And pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-93, alt. © 1975 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: NOT UNTO US (12 10 13 10) Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-93. © 1975 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved.
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✘ The Word ✘

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21

The brothers of Joseph are reasonably scared after the death of their father, Jacob. Joseph sets their fears aside with his forgiveness.

GENESIS 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died:¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?"²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 14:5-9

None of us lives to himself alone, but our responsibility is to live in love for God and our neighbor.

ROMANS 14:5 One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.⁶ He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.⁷ For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone.⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus teaches forgiveness by the parable of the unmerciful servant.

MATTHEW 18:21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “The servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.’ ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

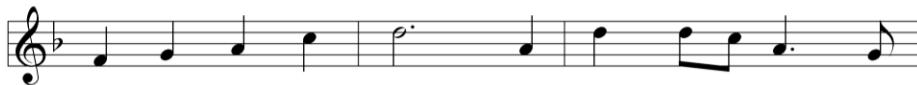
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” You
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless The
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And



taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us; How great our debt to you!
 bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: DETROIT (CM) *A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony*, Harrisonburg, 1820.

✠ Sermon ✠

Romans 14:5-9

“Free” and “Forgiven” Fit Together

Sermon notes:

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.**

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, we are Your people, chosen by Your grace to be Your own possession, and granted mercy upon mercy. Hear Your people who cry to You in need, and remember us according to the favor You have shown to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Brief silence

Encourage us, O Lord, by Your Holy Spirit, that we may not lose heart but, being of one mind and one will, may serve You with gladness, doing the works of Your Kingdom and speaking Your Word of witness throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, O Lord, to hold fast to Your Word and bless us with faithful pastors who will preach and teach Your eternal Gospel, that we may rejoice in doing Your will. Guide those considering church-work vocations, and bless them as they are formed for Your service. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shine Your light upon us, O Lord, that we may do what is good and right and live as faithful citizens in our nation. Bless our president, our governor, and all those elected and appointed to make, administer and judge our laws. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enlighten us with godly knowledge and wisdom, O Lord, and bless those who pursue science to improve our lives and the lives of those in greatest need. Bless all honorable vocations and all honest labor, and lead the unemployed to good jobs and noble work not only for their own interests but for the good of us all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show us Your compassion, O Lord, and in Your mercy grant healing, comfort and peace to all those who suffer. Deliver them from all their afflictions, pain, sorrow and fear. We especially pray for _____ and all those we name in our hearts before You. [*Brief silence*] Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, O Lord, to remember the faithful who loved and served You and who now rest from their labors. Bring us with them to that most blessed day when together we shall dwell in Your presence on high forevermore. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us all good things needful for this body and life and profitable for our salvation, and keep from us all things harmful, that sustained in time of want and guarded in time of prosperity, we may endure to the day of our Lord's coming and be judged worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

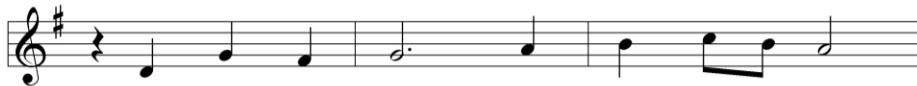
C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

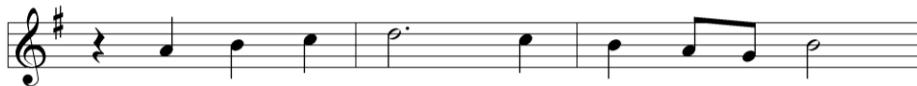
498 – Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire



1 Though I may speak with brav - est fire
2 Though I may give all I pos - sess
3 Come, Spir - it, come; our hearts con - trol.



And have the gift to all in - spire
And, striv - ing so, my love pro - fess
Our spir - its long to be made whole.



And have not love, my words are vain—
But not be giv'n by love with - in,
Let in - ward love guide ev - 'ry deed;



As sound - ing brass— and hope - less gain.
The prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
By this we wor - ship and are freed.

Text: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933. © 1972 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: GIFT OF LOVE (LM) Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933. © 1972 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

✠ Sending ✠

PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

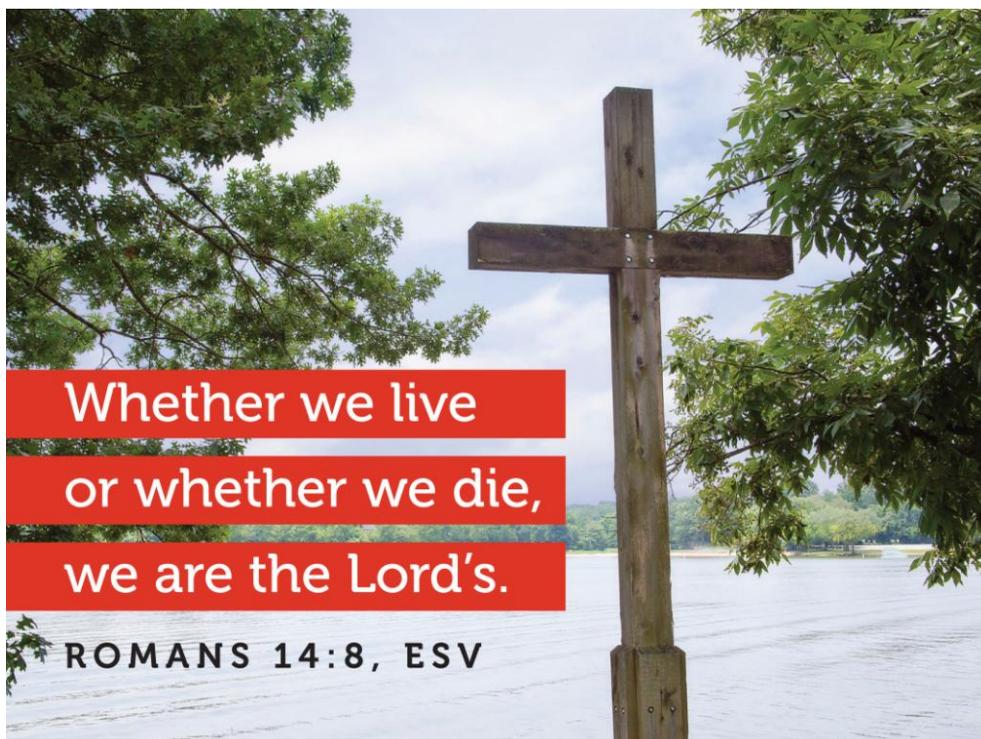


C: A - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

321 – Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to thy dear name we raise
 2 Grant us thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
 3 Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
 4 Grant us thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise.
 With thee be - gan, with thee shall end the day.
 Turn thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
 Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife.



Once more we bless thee ere our wor - ship cease,
 Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
 From harm and dan - ger keep thy peo - ple free,
 Then, when thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait thy word of peace.
 That in this house have called up - on thy name.
 For dark and light are both a - like to thee.
 Call us, O Lord, to thine e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–93, abr., alt.
 Tune: ELLERS (10 10 10 10) Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901.

*After worship, please feel free to greet your neighbors OUTSIDE,
 keeping in mind the social distancing recommendations of six feet spacing.*

Christ
DIED
and lived again,
so that he
might be
LORD
of both
the dead
and the
living.

Romans 14:9, NRSV