

# Peace Lutheran Church

**“Peace Through Christ”**

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## **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

September 13, 2020

**As We Gather**    English poet Alexander Pope wrote, “To err is human; to forgive, divine.” This popular saying attributes the acts of erring and forgiving to beings for whom they come naturally. Humans err. God forgives. The opposite is also true. The Sacred Scriptures teach that there is no error in God, nor can there be. On the other hand, forgiveness is unnatural to humanity unless humanity becomes, as Church Father Athanasius once said, “by grace what God is by nature.” This grace is given to us through the person and work of Christ Jesus for our salvation and is exemplified for us both in Jesus’ teaching and in the lives of such saints as Joseph, who forgave his brothers for the malicious wrongs they did to him.



## + PREPARATION +

### OPENING HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your  
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His  
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is  
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.

- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again;  
Gladly forever adore Him!

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### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 103:1, 6, 8*

Pastor: The LORD works righteousness

**People: and justice for all who are oppressed.**

Pastor: The LORD is merciful and gracious,

**People: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,

**People: bless His holy name!**

## CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Almighty God, merciful Father,

**People:** We confess to You that we have sinned against You in our thinking, speaking, and acting, by not forgiving the people around us the way You have so graciously forgiven us in Christ. For Jesus' sake alone, we boldly ask Your forgiveness. Send the Holy Spirit to empower us to freely forgive others the way we have been forgiven.

Pastor: The Psalmist writes: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who, for the sake of Christ Jesus, forgives all your iniquity, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the pit, crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, and satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Be raised up, brothers and sisters in Christ. God has heard your confession and for the sake of His Son, forgives you all your sins. In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### "On Eagles' Wings"



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -  
2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, And  
3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, Nor the  
4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To  
bide in His shad - ow for life,  
fam - ine will bring you no fear;  
ar - row that flies by day; Though  
guard you in all of your ways; Up -  
Say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, My  
Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His  
thou - sands fall a - bout you,  
on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you  
rock in whom I trust!"  
faith - ful - ness your shield.  
Near you it shall not come.  
dash your foot a - gainst a stone.  
*Refrain*  
And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the  
sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

COLLECT PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, how quickly we forget the great love with which You love us and the grace You have freely bestowed upon us through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Grant that our gaze be fixed on Jesus, our hearts overwhelmed by Your love, and that all our relationships may be marked by forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

+THE WORD OF GOD+

OLD TESTAMENT ..... Genesis 50:15–21

(After the reading)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE ..... Romans 14:1–12

(After the reading)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine”



1 All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King di - vine,  
2 Thou cam'st to us in low - li - ness of thought;  
3 Let this mind be in us which was in Thee,  
4 Where-fore, by God's e - ter - nal pur - pose, Thou  
5 Let ev - 'ry tongue con - fess with one ac - cord,

Didst yield the glo - ry that of right was Thine,  
By Thee the out - cast and the poor were sought;  
Who wast a ser - vant that we might be free,  
Art high ex - alt - ed o'er all crea - tures now,  
In heav'n and earth, that Je - sus Christ is Lord,

That in our dark - ened hearts Thy grace might shine.  
And by Thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought.  
Hum-bling Thy - self to death on Cal - va - ry.  
And giv'n the name to which all knees shall bow.  
And God the Fa - ther be by all a - dored.

Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia!

**HOLY GOSPEL** .....Matthew 18:21–35

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

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

*(After the reading)*

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

## People: Praise to You O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**                      “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 righ - teous-  
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.

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**MESSAGE** Christian Forgiveness, Like Death,  
Is Not Really An Option:  
The Fine Art Of Learning To Let Go  
*Matthew 18:21-35*

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)**

**All:** 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.

## **OFFERING**

*(Offering plates will not be passed but are located near the sidewalk as you leave.)*

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All:** 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.

### **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious unto You. The Lord look upon You with favor and + give  
you His peace.

**People:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

### “Jesus Shall Reign”



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -  
2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from  
prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es  
leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -  
cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.  
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

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## POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** for October-December are now available for you to pick up either at the check-in table or in the church office during the week.

### JOIN A BIBLE STUDY:

**Women's Bible Study** with a study on the Holy Spirit. Please contact Connie Morris (805)987-5116 to join or for more information.

**Men's Bible Study** “Bible Symbols” meets via Zoom Tuesday mornings at 8:30. Call Dave Hutter (805)386-7007 to join or for more information. Books for this new study can be picked up in the church office.

**LifeLight** will be starting up with Zoom classes for now: Contact Blaine or Diana Wanke (805)482-7524 if you would like to join one of these studies.

Wednesday 9/16 @ 5:45 and Thursday 9/17 @ 10 AM.

Our study will be on “End Times”.

Each individual life certainly comes to a conclusion. But what about the whole thing? Is humanity doomed just to muddle along as it has in the past? Or is there a goal, a final reckoning, an ending that makes sense? Christians believe not only that the world had a beginning (Creation) and a glorious middle (our Lord's death and resurrection), but that it will also have an end.

But day after day, year after year, generation after generation, the world goes on as it has in the past. The narratives of the Bible may inspire us; the truths of our faith may encourage us; but we long for the promised ending, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Without it, even the Christian “story” makes no sense. Over the course of 9 sessions, this study explores what the Bible has to say about the end times and what the divine Author has prepared, which is far greater than any of us could write or imagine, for His story ends in glory—the glory of Jesus’ return and the resurrection of God’s faithful into that glory forever.

### **Remember in Your Prayers**

**For health and healing:** Edith Anderson, Lili Baehr, Mrs. Cheung (Veronica Lee’s friend), Brody (grandchild of Dave Schmidt’s friend), family of Rodger & Carolynn Bronner, Crystal (Phil Deck’s niece), Remi Chatelain (Carol Yung’s friend), Marshall Denninger, Dwayne Field, Bill Fitch, Bruce Fraser, Beverly Gandy, Rory Hall (Jim & Lily Mainland’s granddaughter), Ken Haugrud, Damon Hermann (friend of Greg Olewiler), Jim Hogan (Robin Schmidt’s brother-in-law), Vickie Hutter, Jan Irwin (friend of David Zinger), Karen Johnson, Dale Larson, Dawn Logan (Pat Massey’s niece), Mrs. Mai, (friend of Greg Olewiler), Scott McComas, Ryan McCracken, Ryan Scott Morrison, Ken Nipstad, Jim Pedersen, Rawlin Radle, Mark Reuter (Son of Rita & Ken Reuter), Joanne Riccardi (friend of Pat Massey), Shane Shelton (relative of Melissa Hamilton), Orion Solu (nephew of Craig & Peggy Frye), Llewyn Rae Spencer (infant grandson of Gary & Char Spencer), Leslie Stenke, Bev Toro, Jon Volpei (Connie Morris’ son), Carol Yung, Sue Zinger.

### **For peace and comfort:**

Charlo Stuart as she mourns the death of her husband David.  
Roy Poehler and family as they mourn Ingrid’s death.

**Pray for all military men and women especially:** Jacob Chiles, Andrew Geib, Daniel Gross, Michael Hanson, Brian Miller, Kevin Palos, Kevin Schleicher, Stephen Volpei, Amy Waddell, Lucas Wentlandt. Also remember their families in your prayers.

Please keep the nation and all those in authority in your prayers, along with front line healthcare workers. We will get through this together, because we never go through anything alone.