



**September 13th, 2020**

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

***“Resurrection Lutheran Church exists to proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour, in an open accepting fellowship, a loving caring community that reaches out to all people to serve Christ through worshipping, teaching, learning, sharing and giving of ourselves to meet the needs of this congregation, the community and the world, as the Holy Spirit moves us.”***

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**

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In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgement of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

## GATHERING

### Liturgy: Now The Feast and Celebration – Marty Haugen

#### Announcements

#### Words of Welcome

#### Confession and Forgiveness

L: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

L: Most Merciful God,  
**have mercy on us.**

**We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have don and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen**

L: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.  
**Thanks be to God!**

#### Apostolic Greeting:

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

#### Kyrie – Now the Feast and Celebration

#### Refrain:

Let us pray to the Lord, **have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all ...

**Refrain**

For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word ... **Refrain**

Help, save and defend us, O God

**Amen**

**Now the Feast – Now the Feast and Celebration**

**Refrain:** Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom: praise and glory forevermore!

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God. **Refrain:**
2. Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever. **Refrain:**
3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God: to make all things new. **Refrain:**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

L; Let us pray

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the exhaustible 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 Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**Children’s Chat**

**First Reading**

**Genesis 50:15-21**

*Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

<sup>15</sup> Realizing 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?” <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> ‘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. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even 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. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalms 103:1-13 (We will read this responsively)**

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

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, **and all that is within me, bless his holy name.**

<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, **and do not forget all his benefits—**

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, **who heals all your diseases,**

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the Pit, **who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good as long as you live **so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.**

<sup>6</sup> The LORD works vindication **and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses, **his acts to the people of Israel.**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious, **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, **nor will he keep his anger forever.**

<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins, **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, **so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, **so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion for his children, **so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

### **Second Reading**

### **Romans 14:1-12**

*When brothers and sisters judge each other*

<sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables.

<sup>3</sup> Those 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. <sup>4</sup> Who 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. <sup>5</sup> Some 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. <sup>6</sup> Those 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. <sup>7</sup> We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> Why 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. <sup>11</sup> For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

### **Holy Gospel**

**Mathew 18:21-35**

*A parable of forgiveness*

### **Gospel Response**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup> "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup> and, 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. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But 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.' <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW #608**

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. "Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"
2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? "Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"
3. Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. "Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

## **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.

### Prayers of the People

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal renew, and redeem your world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who

are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty and war.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbours.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you, especially John Chrystostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy, through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

**Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

L: Merciful God,

**Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours.  
Now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **Blessing**

### **Sending Hymn      Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ELW #834**

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render, oh, help us to see  
‘tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

**Dismissal              Go in peace. Serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!**

**Special thanks to** our musician Corrine Oxelgren, our Worship Assistant Sharon Babcock, our Reader Karys England, the pastors from the seven ELCIC churches in Saskatoon, Nahema Tchokonte for leading the children’s chat, David Kirton for technical support, and Garry Booth for Zoom support.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR September 20, 2020**

Jonah 3:10 – 4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

**PRAYER LIST**

Ruth Hilderman (Esther Cherland’s sister), Judy Pannell, the family of Pastor Gene Grant

To add or remove names from the list, please contact the church office or call Pastor Ali.

**Givings:**

2020 Monthly Budget: **\$15,125**

September envelope givings in total: **\$3,125**

Estimated PAR on September 20<sup>th</sup>: **\$8,131.25**

Chequing Account Balance: **minus \$13,192.11**

***Thank you for your generous givings especially during this extraordinary time!***

**Reopening In-Person Service Plans**

The reopening committee is well into planning for a potential reopening date of Oct. 4, 2020 for Resurrection’s in-person services.

There will be many changes to what in-person services will look like in order to maintain safety and follow guidelines for worship set out by the Synod.

As with all activities during this pandemic, each member/family must decide whether or not attending in-person services is the right choice for them at any given time.

We are striving to provide you with all of the information you need in order to make informed decisions. In this regard, please see and review the communications sent out on September 9, 2020 regarding updated Synod guidelines and the presentation from Pastor Ali. There will be opportunities later in September after our live zoom services for Question and Answer periods for those who want to discuss details further. Questions/concerns can also be directed to Pastor Ali and/or Angela England directly.

Thanks to the Reopening committee for their hard work and time: Bob Berikoff, Betty Harper, Elaine Leite, Bonnie Semenoff, Shelley Witt, Brian Unverricht, Kara Zapf, and Angela England, with support from Ryan Baker and guidance from Pastor Ali. If you would like to help with reopening please contact Ryan Baker, Pastor Ali, or Angela England.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual LuMinHos Walk-A-Thon will be held on September 19 at 10:00am starting at Zion Lutheran Church. Please contact Sharon Babcock or the church office for more information.

The office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 am until 4 pm. If you need to come in to the church or are dropping something off, please call Ryan first at 306-242-4042.

Please follow along with **Pastor Ali's blog** on the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic at <https://covid19pastoralresponse.ca/>

We are working on updating the directory. If you can, please send in a new picture. If you have recently moved or changed your phone number, please send that new information as well. We would like to include email addresses this time. If you don't want to have yours in the directory, please let Ryan know. The directory will only be made available to our congregation members and will not be published anywhere.

The ***Eternity for Today*** devotional for October/November/December has arrived. If you would like one, please call Ryan and arrangements can be made for you to pick one up. They are also available on the ELCIC website at <https://elcic.ca/EternityforToday.cfm>

### **Caring for your Congregation during Social Distancing**

One of the best things you can do during this time of difficulty and uncertainty, is to call fellow members within your congregation to see how they are coping during these times and offer support in whatever way we can. Many will be isolated and alone.

Here are a few tips to help make that call a truly Christian caring call and things you will need to know:

1. You will need to be well equipped to provide caring over the telephone (or other media) ...\*active listening \* validating feelings \*being as fully present as possible over the phone.
  2. Offer prayer – pray with and for the person being called. People vary in terms of how comfortable they are praying over the phone, but most often the prayer support will be greatly appreciated. Build the prayer to what the person is specifically going through and what kinds of supports are most needed.
  3. If part of your call is to gather information for the church office, inform the person you are calling and get permission to pass along any sensitive or difficult information from your conversation or prayer request. Otherwise, anything you share during your conversation should be kept confidential.
  4. Know the resources your congregation has available for help if requested i.e. food ministry, clothing programs, financial assistance programs, etc. Whatever the needs are, follow up on them while keeping your pastor informed.
  5. Throughout this process, provide care for yourself, the pastor, church staff and other congregation caregivers. Check In with each other regularly, lift one another up, and provide mutual care and support.
- It's amazing what we can do by listening to people and being present for their pain, let God do everything else!**