

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

THREAD: *The Church fulfills its role as its brother's keeper.*

Hymn: God Loved the World So That He Gave

CW 570



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the



Son the lost to save that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.

- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessèd Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;

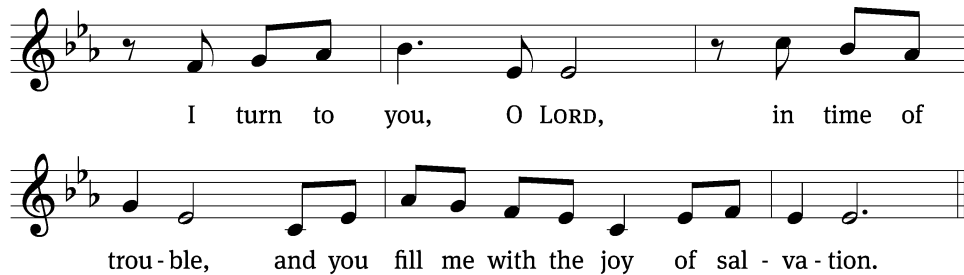
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

Psalm: I Turn to You, O LORD

Psalm 32A

Refrain



I turn to you, O LORD, in time of
trou - ble, and you fill me with the joy of sal - va - tion.

Tone



Blessed is the one whose transgressions are for- / given,
whose sins are / covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count a- / gainst them
and in whose spirit is / no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wast- / ed away
through my groaning / all day long.

For day and night your hand was heav- / y on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of / summer.

Then I acknowledged my / sin to you
and did not cover up my in- / iquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions / to the LORD."
And you forgave the guilt / of my sin. **Refrain**

You are my / hiding place;
you will protect me from / trouble.

Many are the woes of the / wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who / trusts in him.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,**

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

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Second Reading

Galatians 2:11–16

What does it mean to be my brother's "keeper"? What does 'keeper' mean? Another translation says 'guardian'. But what does that mean? Our passage in Galatians starts to unfold the meaning. The apostle Paul saw that the apostle Peter was being hypocritical. So, he told Peter, and Peter corrected his thinking and actions. Paul was his brother's keeper.

¹¹When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

¹⁵“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Timothy 2:4

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

God wants all people to be saved

and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 18:15–20

If I am to be my brother's keeper, how do I do it? Do I warn him or her with a megaphone or a blog-post? In our text today, we are discussing sins that are somewhat private in nature. As somewhat private, who can help this errant brother? Well, you can! Follow Scripture's orderly method that encourages humility and repentance. We as individuals and as the Church are the lifeline to rescue the sinner. We use law and Gospel as we present God's message of reconciliation.

¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day: Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CW 654



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the
4 I, a sin - ner, come to you with a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
Lord for - sak - en; wea - ry souls who lost their way
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for
here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble
are by Christ, the Shep - herd, tak - en in his arms that
grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know,
were as scarlet my transgression,
it shall be as white as snow
by your blood and bitter passion,
for these words I do believe:
Jesus sinners does receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace,
from the law I stand acquitted.
Christ has purchased my release
and my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners does receive.
- 7 Jesus sinners does receive,
even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave:
Jesus sinners does receive.

Sermon

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Watchmen stand ready to warn

- A. Share the watchman's work
- B. Listen to the watchman's warning

*Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission
Ministering Elder: Jim Dietz*

Apostles' Creed

**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.**

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture.

Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith.

Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

... Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering – *The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to:*

Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406

Let us pray:

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.

Amen.

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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

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.
Amen.

Hymn: As Surely As I Live, God Said

CW 656

1 "As sure - ly as I live," God said, "I would not
2 And so our Lord gave this com - mand: "Go forth and
3 "All those whose sins you thus re - mit I tru - ly
4 "What you will bind, that bound shall be; what you will
see the sin - ner dead, but that he turn from
preach in ev - 'ry land; be - stow on all my
par - don and ac - quit, and those whose sins you
loose, that shall be free; un - to my Church the
er - ror's ways, re - pent, and live through end - less days."
par - d'ning grace who will re - pent of sin - ful ways.
do re - tain con - demned and guilt - y shall re - main.
keys are giv'n to op'n and close the gates of heav'n."

- 5 The words which absolution give
are his who died that we might live;
the minister whom Christ has sent
is but his humble instrument.
- 6 When ministers lay on their hands,
absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
he who by grace the Word believes
forgiveness, sure and sweet, receives.
- 7 Praise God the Father and the Son
and Holy Spirit, Three in One,
as was, is now, and so shall be
forever and eternally!

Silent prayer – Announcements

Acknowledgments:

Setting One from Christian Worship

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