



The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 13, 2020

9:45 AM

Prelude: "I Love to Tell the Story"

Wm Fischer

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Faithful God,

People: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Pastor: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

People: Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

**Praise ,my soul, the King of heaven, To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise Him for His grace and favor To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same as ever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.**

**Angels in the height, adore Him; Ye behold Him face to face;
Saints triumphant, bow before Him; Gathered in from every race;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible 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 Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

Scripture Readings

The Psalter: Psalm 103: 1-13

Leader: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

People: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

Leader: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

People: who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

Leader: who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

People: O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

Leader: You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

People: LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

Leader: you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

People: You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

Leader: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

People: As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

Leader: As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

A Reading: Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

¹Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

¹²Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. ¹³And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." ¹⁴So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, ¹⁵and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" ¹⁶"I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." ¹⁷The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²²Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on

him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; ²⁴and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Sermon: “Deep Holes”

Rev. Donald Brown

Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles’ Creed

Leader: Join me in affirming our faith using the words of the Apostles’ Creed – a baptismal 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 again 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

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

A brief silence.

Leader: You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Nurture new ministries of education and growth in the church as we work through this time of pandemic and physical distancing.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war.
Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: 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 neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

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

People: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray the prayer our Savior taught us...

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.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Here I am Lord"

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, gave them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Silent Meditation

Benediction

Postlude: "Prayer"

Kreutzer

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