



Grace Lutheran Church
Yorba Linda, California

September 27, 2020
17th Sunday after Pentecost



As far as the east is from the west...

“The human animal is not... good at forgiveness. Forgiveness is not some innate, natural human emotion. It is natural for the human ‘animal’ to defend itself, to snarl and crouch in a defensive position when attacked, to howl when wronged, to bite back when bitten.

Forgiveness is not natural.” (Willimon) Forgiveness, in other words, must be something God gives and teaches. Have mercy on us, Lord, and teach us to forgive like you!



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace

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Music – David Stansfield

Text in light grey indicates that section is not used in the online version of the service.



DIVINE SERVICE

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Our sermon lesson today centers around the sacrifice of atonement. It covers over our sins, or sets us at-one with God.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and given his only Son to be the *atonement sacrifice* for our sins. 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.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

THE WORD

*Have mercy on us,
Lord, and teach us
to forgive like you!*

*It could even be
seventy times
seven.*

*Greek is 10,000
talents. A talent
was worth about
20 years of wages!
It couldn't be
repaid.*

*The Greek here is a
100 denarii – or
just one day's
wages. A small
amount.*

THE FIRST READING

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²²Jesus 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. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold^[a] was brought to him. ²⁵Since 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“At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷The 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 silver coins. 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 it back.’

³⁰“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged 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. ³³Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴In anger his master handed 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 or sister from your heart.”

VERSE OF THE DAY “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” ***Ephesians 4:32***

M: I will hear what the Lord proclaims: peace to his people.

A. Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

B. He forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

A. he redeems your life from the grave*

B. and crowns you with love and compassion.

A. The LORD is compassionate and gracious,*

B. slow to anger, abounding in love.

A. He does not treat us as our sins deserve*

B. or repay us according to our iniquities.

A. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, *

B. so great is his love for those who fear him;

A. as far as the east is from the west, *

B. so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

A. As a father has compassion on his children, *

B. so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

A. for he knows how we are formed, *

B. he remembers that we are dust.

A. Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field; *

B. the wind blows over it and it is gone.

A. But the LORD's love is with those who fear him*

B. from everlasting to everlasting.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

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 of 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.

*Offerings are part
of our worship life
and our life in the
church. During this
time of social
distancing, your
offering may be left
at the door or
mailed or you may
give online at
www.gracelutheran.church.*

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD'S PRAYER

M: ...Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

C: 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.

BLESSING

M: 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.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Not All The Blood of Beasts (#128)

*The great hymn
writer Isaac Watts
uses the imagery of
the Day of
Atonement to point
us to Christ.*

- 1 Not all the blood of beasts On Israel's altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.**
- 2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away,
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.**
- 3 In faith I place my hand On that dear head divine,
As penitently here I stand And lay on him my sin.**
- 4 My soul looks back to see The burden you did bear
When hanging on the cursed tree—I know my guilt was there!**
- 5 Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing his bleeding love.**

CALENDAR

Thursday - Bible Study online – 10 AM or 7 PM

Sunday worship – online (at your convenience) or in-person at 9:30 AM.

This week: Confirmation class

*October 10th – Lutheran Women's Mission Society Rally (virtual meeting)
Look for information in the coming weeks.*