



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020 • 10 am

You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek to live the truth written in Ephesians that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment 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

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the son †
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

** Gathering Song

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise (verses 1 and 2)

ELW # 834



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

** Prayer of the Day

Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: Amen.

** Items in bold are to be spoken/sung by the assembly.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

The Rev. Jason Churchill

**** Hymn**

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (verses 1-4)

ELW #605



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with either:

Responses: Bless we the Lord
Hear us, O God.

Thanks be to God.
Your mercy is great.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Lord's Prayer

**** Items in bold are to be spoken/sung by the assembly.**

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

Dismissal

Postlude

Enjoy today's service? Visit our Facebook page and invite a friend, comment, or leave a review. May God go with you today and everyday.

Readings for Sunday, September 13, 2020

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

Readings for Sunday, September 20, 2020

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

Worship elements taken from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24228

For additional reference on hymn text and music please refer to the hymn number in the cranberry prayer book and hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Jason Churchill

Cantor:

Dr. Oksana Glouchko

Assisting Minister:

Ann Warner

Lector:

Bob Linderman

Reader:

Henry Sullivan

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
1301 N Broom St, Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623
www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org office@ststeph.org