

UNCOMFORTABLE

How far are you willing to follow Jesus?

Sermon Series through September 13



Fifteenth Sunday
in Pentecost

Contemporary Worship
11:00 am
September 13, 2020



trinity | camp hill

LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church! We're so glad you're here. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins are available from an usher.

about today's service

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.

P: Presiding Minister L: Lector C: Congregation

As part of our COVID-19 response, the congregation is reminded to refrain from singing during this worship service.

✝ Gathering ✝

We gather together to praise God and receive God's love.

Gathering Music: "His Mercy Is More"

FaithX Band (pre-recorded)

Song: "Come Let Us Return"

By Brenton Brown and Matt Maher © 2008 spiritandsong.com/Thankyou Music CCLI #1283514.

Welcome

(Stand)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

(Sit)

☩ Word ☩

We listen to the story of God's mighty acts for the sake of God's people.

Reading:

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who 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. ⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God. ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

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

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Sit)

Sermon:

Pastor Jack Horner

Series theme:

"Uncomfortable: How far are you willing to follow Jesus?"

Weekly sermon title: "We Do Not Live to Ourselves "

Song: "Sweetly Broken"

Sweetly broken. By Jeremy Riddle © 2005 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing ccli# 1283514.

(Stand)

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 Church

Following each petition are the words: "Lord, in your mercy,"

*Please respond with: "... **hear our prayer.**"*

† Meal †

When we celebrate communion we remember that Jesus died for us and we experience His love and forgiveness. As we eat the bread and wine, Christ is present with us.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Offering

Optional giving methods: Use the Give+ app on your mobile device • Text an amount to 717-963-2281 (be sure to use a "\$") • Use the "DONATE" button on our website and e-blasts
Your offerings may also be placed in the white offering boxes at the back of the worship space as you exit.

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

P: Christ is here.

C: The Spirit is with us.

P: With joy, we lift up our hearts.

C: And give thanks to the Lord of Life.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Delivering God, through your Son's dying and rising,
you have released us from the debt of sin
into the company of the forgiven.

Sanctify us, who share this meal, to be a sign of jubilee hope
in your freeing, redeeming, life-giving promise.

Send your Spirit upon this bread and this cup of blessing
to be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take
and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the
remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in
my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

P: Great is the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P: God of mercy, shape your church
to embody the forgiveness you make possible in Christ.
Have compassion upon your sons and daughters
who suffer the isolation of shame or disgrace.
Give courage and conviction to any who find it difficult to forgive
a brother or sister from the heart,
and console your children whose pleas for clemency are unheeded.
Bring your kingdom near in every place
where financial debt weighs down nation or household.
Draw us into your eternal life,
that heralding your emancipation and proclaiming your liberation
together with your people of every age,
we may be bound to you forever in one perfect freedom,
everlasting God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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. 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 ✠

*We have heard the Word of God, offered our gifts, and been fed at the table.
Now we are sent out, strengthened by the Holy Spirit to be God's people in the world.*

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus says, "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

C: Lord, give us this bread always.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Sit)

***Please take all your possessions as you go up for communion
as you will not be returning to your seat.***

Sharing our Lord's Supper

All Christians are welcome to celebrate the real presence of Jesus Christ in our Lord's Supper. At the direction of the pastor, receive the bread at the end of your row, and then exit the worship space by the center aisle through the rear glass doors. Communion distribution will begin with the back rows.

At this time, we will be offering only the wafer of bread and no wine. Be assured that you still receive the entire presence of God in that single element, as our Lutheran theology teaches us. If you need a gluten-free wafer, simply ask the pastor as you approach. Non-communing children and adults are invited to receive a blessing.

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Join us next week

+ + +

September 19, 20

Pastor Liz Frey

“Phillipians: Official Guide for a Joy-filled life”

+ + +

Sunday's Music offerings:

FaithX

Worship notes

Copies of last week's sermons are available on our website (www.trinitycamphill.org). If you would like a printed copy, please call the church office and one can be mailed to you.

The flowers in the Nave and Fellowship Hall, the communion elements for all services, and the sanctuary lamp candle, the symbol of God's abiding presence, are presented to the glory of God. If you would like support this minister with a one time or regular contribution, please go to <https://www.trinitycamphill.org/donate/> or send a check (\$30) to the church office marked 'flowers/worship elements'.

Leaders

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Elizabeth E. Frey

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

Lector: Jennifer Schwalm

Greeters: George and Becky Enney

Ushers: Tom and Linda Hoffert

Altar Care: Jennifer Schwalm

Sound Technician: Royce Hoffman

Video Technician: Barb Martin

Slide Show Production: Barb Martin

Visual Announcements: Barb Martin

FaithX Ensemble: Kevin Appleby, Mike Schwalm, Paul Walker, Debbie Wilson, Rick Wilson

Bulletin Artwork: Trinity Staff

United and empowered to worship, connect, serve.