



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH
100 W. Lochmere Drive Cary, NC 27518
919-851-7248 www.RLCary.org

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020 – 6:00 PM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, Resurrection Lutheran Church celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

There are no limits to God's Forgiveness; neither is there to be for us forgiving others. There is a direct connection between our receiving God's Forgiveness and our forgiving another person. In Jesus, God took our debts into Himself and paid the price Himself; so that, by His Grace, we might receive the free gift of His Forgiveness.

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at this worship service. All who are baptized in the name of the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and who affirm the following are welcome to come forward to receive it:

- I am a fallen and sinful person in need of God's forgiveness;
- The Sacrament is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine instituted by Christ Himself for us to eat and to drink;
- In the Sacrament, everyone who believes the words "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," receives forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

At Resurrection Lutheran Church children who are baptized as infants are instructed so that they may receive Holy Communion understanding what it is we are looking for, and why we are coming. Newcomers to Resurrection Lutheran Church receive the opportunity for in-depth catechetical instruction. If you and/or your children of any age are not prepared to receive the Lord's Supper with this same statement of faith, you are requested to refrain from receiving Holy Communion at this time. We do, however, welcome you and the members of your family to come forward to receive a blessing. Please either stand still with head bowed or fold your arms across your body as a sign to receive the verbal blessing.

White grape juice is available in the center of each tray of individual cups for those who cannot tolerate wine; and gluten free wafers are also available in the center of the paten, if needed. If you have any questions, please speak with an usher.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

Variations on Down Ampney – D. Heller

WELCOME

❖ INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The LORD works righteousness

C **and justice for all who are oppressed.**

P The LORD is Merciful and Gracious,

C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,

C **bless His Holy Name!**

❖ CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

C **We confess to You that we have sinned against You in our thinking, speaking, and acting, by not forgiving the people around us the way You have so graciously forgiven us in Christ. For Christ's Sake alone, we boldly ask Your Forgiveness. Send the Holy Spirit to empower us to freely forgive others the way we have been forgiven.**

P Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His Benefits, Who, for the Sake of Christ Jesus, forgives all your iniquity, heals all your diseases, redeems your life from the pit, crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, and satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. *(Psalm 103:2-5)*
As a Called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His Authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING, ENTRANCE HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine

LSB 501, vs. 1 & 3

(Sung by soloist)

**1. Come down, O Love divine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with Thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near; Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.**

**3. Let holy charity Mine outward vesture be
And lowliness become mine inner clothing—
True lowliness of heart, Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

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❖ SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, our Refuge and Strength, the Author of all Godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution,
C **and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 50: 15-21

(Joseph forgives his brothers.)

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said,
"What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"
So they sent word to Joseph, saying,
"Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.'
Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father."

When their message came to him, Joseph wept.
His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him.
"We are your slaves," they said.
But Joseph said to them,
"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalms 34:9, 19

P Fear the LORD, you His saints,
C for those who fear Him lack nothing!

P Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
C but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE

Romans 14:1-12

(Paul gives us encouragement and guidance to live as Christians in this world.)

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters. One man's faith allows him to eat anything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not,

and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master, he stands or falls.

And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.
One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike.
Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.
He who regards one day as special does so to the Lord.
He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.
For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone.
If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ **ALLELUIA VERSE**

C **Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**
Alleluia. *(Matthew 5:3)*

❖ **GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:21-35

(Jesus teaches us about humility and forgiveness.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked,
"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me?
Up to seven times?"

So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.
For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that He might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.
You, then, why do you judge your brother?
Or why do you look down on your brother?
For we will all stand before God's Judgment Seat.
It is written:
"As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before Me; every tongue will confess to God."
So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Jesus answered,
"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

"Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.

Since 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.

"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.'

The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii.

He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'

In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

"This is how My Heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, Lord Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lea Webb, Director of Children's Ministry

MUSICAL OFFERING, HYMN OF THE DAY

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

LSB 843 (Tune: LSB 744)

(Sung by soloist)

**1. "Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But You alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.**

**3. In blazing light Your cross reveals The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to You!**

**4. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.**

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SERMON

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Paid in Full (Matt. 18:21–35)

Sermon notes on page 15



APOSTLES' CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.**

GREETING OF PEACE

P The Peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you,"
as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3)
Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God's people will be received through electronic giving, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)

MUSICAL OFFERING, OFFERTORY HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

LSB 845, vs. 1, 3, 6

(Sung by soloist)

**1. Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.**

**3. Forgive we now each other's faults As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well In Christian holiness.**

**6. For love excludes no race or clan That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all Whose Father is the same.**

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PRAYER FOR TEACHERS, HELPERS AND LEARNERS IN EDUCATION

P As people of God called to teach and admonish one another with all wisdom;
together we share the responsibility for Christian education in our homes, schools
and our church to encourage one another and build each other up.

P “*Dear friends, let us one another, for love comes from God.*” (1 John 4:7)

P Let us pray.

**C Heavenly Father, Give us a strong desire to continue in Your Word within the
fellowship of this community at Resurrection Lutheran Church and Schools.
Bless all the study groups at Resurrection; so that we may be enabled to love
one another and grow in faith, stand strong in life, encourage each other and
reach out with Your Love to those who may not know You now.
In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.**

❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according
to their needs.

After each additional petition:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your Hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

P Remembering what He won for us by His obedient Life and Life-giving Death, and proclaiming His Resurrection and Ascension, we pray that You gather Your Church, O Lord, and bring us together at last that, with the saints above and all who confess You here, we may begin the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in His Kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ Who has taught us to pray:

❖ **LORD'S 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

+ SACRAMENT +

❖ **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took, bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1Corinthians 11:23-25*)

❖ PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Maintaining physical space of 6 feet behind and to the side of each communicant (small children may stand with parents), please follow usher instructions to enter the central aisle and approach the distribution area. There are six small tables between the pews and chancel area. Worshipers sitting on the left side of the sanctuary (facing the altar) will turn left to commune, and those sitting on the right side will turn to the right. Having removed your mask, please approach the first table corresponding to the side of the sanctuary where you are seated. It contains a large paten for communion host (gluten free wafers are available in the middle of the paten). Receive the host while standing to the side of these tables. Upon receiving the host, please approach the tray of individual cups at the worship leader's guiding and receive the wine to the side of the table. White grape juice cups are located in the interior circle of the tray. Empty cups are placed in the tray or basket on the third table. We recommend removing your mask to receive Holy Communion by touching ear loops or head straps only.

MUSICAL OFFERING,

MUSIC DURING THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611

(Sung by soloist)

**1. Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**

**2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me-wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.**

3. Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

4. Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

5. O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

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❖ **DISMISSAL BLESSING**

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body
and soul to Life Everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.
C Amen.

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING, CLOSING HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

LSB 851, vs. 1-2
(Sung by soloist)

1. Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the _unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.

2. Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
 Gladly, freely of Your own.
 With the sunshine of Your goodness
 Melt our thankless hearts of stone
 Till our cold and selfish natures,
 Warmed by You, at length believe
 That more happy and more blessed
 'Tis to give than to receive.

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P Go in peace and serve the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in F Major – D. Buxtehude

Worshipers should await usher instructions before exiting the sanctuary.
 We will dismiss by rows, starting in the back.

Acknowledgments

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Servants in Worship

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Liturgist.....Rev. Jon Richter
Assisting Minister.....Lea Webb, Director of Children’s Ministry
Organist/Pianist/Vocalist.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry
Vocalist.....Rebecca Melland-Kuo
Coordinator.....Linda Crandall
Lector.....Tim LaCroix
Usher.....Bud & Teri McCarty
Altar Care.....Teri McCarty
Greeters.....Deb Oesterling, Karol LaCroix

Paid in Full (Matt. 18:21–35)
Proper 19/Series A

This week is week two of a series on forgiveness. Last week we considered the free gift of forgiveness of sins that is ours in Christ Jesus. Today we come as dependent children leaning on God's strength to forgive one another from our hearts.

- I. Jesus' Parable: A _____ Lord and an _____ Servant
 - a. Jesus is describing the attitude expected of his disciples toward their "brothers [and sisters]" (i.e., "fellow disciples")
 - b. Though it is striking how the colleague owing money to the unforgiving servant asks for mercy in the same way the unforgiving servant had requested mercy from his Master (falling down, begging, etc.), the Master's merciful response had been completely different.
 - c. Consequences for the unforgiving servant: turned over to "jailers" (18:34)
- II. Our Reality: Our Inability to _____ " _____ "
 - a. Though we can all understand Jesus' parable, ordinary life is complicated by our own realities:
 - i. We underestimate (or don't truly understand) the extent of our debts to the Master...so don't appreciate the forgiveness we've received
 - ii. We overestimate (or don't truly understand) the debt our fellow believers owe us...so aren't inclined to show mercy.
 - iii. We feel that those who get vexed over our treatment of fellow believers don't realize just what "scoundrels" these folks can be!
 - b. We confuse the decision to forgive with a feeling, a "perfect forgetting," or the excusing of wrongdoing.
 - c. Consequences that we deserve: The just retribution of our God for a debt that we can never repay
- III. God's Reality: God _____ Us and Uses Us to _____, _____
 - a. Jesus has taken care of the impossible debt we owe; by His death and resurrection our account before God has been marked "paid in full"...though we don't deserve it!
 - b. We are given to always see the debts others owe us in light of our own impossible debt that has been perfectly forgiven
 - c. We are invited to pray "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" (Matt 6:12) and see God's forgiveness as our gift to share
 - d. The Spirit is at work in us that we might take part in both the event and the process of forgiveness (*The Peacemaker*, Ken Sande)