



“FORGIVE...  
FROM YOUR  
HEART.”

MATTHEW 18:35

**Today's Worship**  
15th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 13, 2020

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**, 100 Lochmere Drive W., Cary, NC 27518  
[www.rlcary.org](http://www.rlcary.org) (919) 851-7248

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 and Sharing of Peace**

**Musical Offering, Opening Hymn: 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) - (Sung by Soloist)**

**Invocation**

**Confession of Sins and Good News of Forgiveness**

**Musical Offering, Song of Praise: Good, Good Father - (Sung by Soloist)**

**The Old Testament Reading – Genesis 50:15-21**

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.

**The New Testament Epistle – Romans 14:1-12**

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.

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

#### **The Holy Gospel – Matthew 18:21-35**

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?" 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."

#### **Children's Message**

**Musical Offering, Song of the Day: Build My Life - (Sung by Soloist)**

**Message – Pastor Jonathan Blanke**

**Apostles' Creed**

**Prayer for Teachers, Helpers and Learners in Education**

**Prayers of the Church**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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. Worshippers 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. 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.

**Holy Communion**  
**Words of Institution and Invitation**

**Musical Offerings During Distribution** - Christopher Reed

**The Blessing and Benediction**

**Musical offering, Closing Song: Cornerstone** – (Sung by Soloist)

**Offering**

(The offerings of Gods people will be received through electronic giving, by postal mail and in baskets located in the FLC lobby)

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

**+ Go in Peace! Serve the Lord! Thanks Be to God! +**

***In Service Today:***

Keyboards/Vocals: Christopher Reed  
Vocalist: Deb Oesterling  
Sound Technician: Grant Hundertmark  
A/V: Jayden Ashmore  
Coordinator: Mel Tolliver

Proclaimer: Pastor Jonathan Richter  
Liturgist: Pastor Jon Richter  
Lay Reader: Mike Persson  
Ushers: Mike Persson, Steve Meyer  
Greeters: Carolin Roberts, Anna Tolliver

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)

