

September 24, 2023
16th Sunday after Trinity



Forgiving

EACH OTHER

just as in

CHRIST GOD

forgave you.



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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #27:1-4

"Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul"

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Pastor

C Congregation

Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C **If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us pray.

C **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Response: TLH #644

"Praise God, from Whom..."

C ♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Offertory

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.

- G** ♪ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Sermon Hymn: TLH #652

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

Prayers, Lord's Prayer, and Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.
- G** Amen.

Closing Hymn: TLH #31 *"When All Thy Mercies, O My God"*

Thank you! Thank you to Art Pontow for leading the worship service this morning!

Looking Ahead: Sept. 21-24 – CLC ManUp! Retreat
(Pastor returns Sept. 24 evening)
Sept. 26-28 – SEPC Pastoral Conference (SC)
Sept. 27 – No Bible Class (Pastor Out of Town)
Sept. 28 – Pastor Returns in evening
Oct. 15 – Confirmation Sunday

Prayer Opportunities:

- Continue to pray for **Carol Benter, Tim Lewis, and Sara Wenner** as they continue their individual recoveries. Ask that the Lord would give them strength and health!
- Pray for this week's **CLC Southeast Pastoral Conference** in West Columbia, SC. Ask that the Lord would grant safe travel for the pastors and bless the meetings.
- Pray for **Shaun and Ryan Dobratz** as they finish their catechism classes and prepare for their Confirmation!

The Introit

Psalm 143:1-2, 9

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge!
- G** **Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**
- P** Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.
- G** **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.**

The Gloria Patri

TLH #237:1

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

- G** ♪ **All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended; God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; Oh, thank Him for His goodness!**

Collect Prayer of the Day

- P** O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, 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.
- G** Amen.

Matthew 18:21-35

(Summary: The Lord forgives us freely, for debts that we cannot even imagine! How can we be freely forgiven and refuse to forgive? Lord help us!)

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times."²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants."²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.²⁵ And since he

could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

(Summary: Forgiveness is the mark of a Christian. We forgive because God forgave us. Lord

help us to forgive, love, and be compassionate to one another!)

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles. We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

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 Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #412

"May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill"

Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, ¹⁷ 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God? ²⁰ "But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. ²¹ "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

THE HEALING POWER OF CHRISTIAN FORGIVENESS!

Today's sermon was written by CLC President Michael Wilke