

# Fifteenth Sunday after PENTECOST

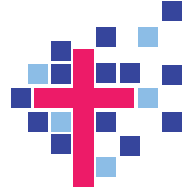
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## Welcome to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

*By God's grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to:  
Worship God, Grow in faith, Share the Gospel, Serve others, Welcome all*



*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.*

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WELCOME

Pastor Dave Thomas

PRELUDE

Dean Robinson, organist

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## BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*silence for reflection and self-examination*

P Most merciful God:

**C We confess we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, 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

**C of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen!**

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## OPENING HYMN

ELW #834

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*


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!

KYRIE

## ELW Holy Communion: Setting Three

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## CANTICLE

## ELW Holy Communion: Setting Three

*This Is the Feast*

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

*Refrain*

1. Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

2. Pow - er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon - or, — bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

*Refrain*

Bless - ing, hon-or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

*Refrain*

4. For the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al-le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Aria Walker

Let us pray: Merciful Father, 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## THE FIRST LESSON

Bev Walker

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### *Genesis 50:15-21 (NRSV)*

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

#### L A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

#### L The Word of the Lord.

#### **C Thanks be to God!**

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## THE PSALM

*Psalms 103:1-13 (NRSV)**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)*

- <sup>1</sup>Bless the Lord, | O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- <sup>2</sup>**Bless the Lord, | O my soul,  
and forget not | all God's benefits—**
- <sup>3</sup>who forgives | all your sins  
and heals all | your diseases;
- <sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life | from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;**
- <sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires | with good things  
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- <sup>6</sup>**O Lord, you provide | vindication  
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**
- <sup>7</sup>You made known your | ways to Moses  
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- <sup>8</sup>**Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**
- <sup>9</sup>you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
- <sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
- <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
- <sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is | from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**
- <sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion | for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord.

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THE SECOND LESSON

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*Romans 14:1-12 (NRSV)*

*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.*

L A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

<sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those 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. <sup>4</sup>Who 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.

<sup>5</sup>Some 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. <sup>6</sup>Those 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.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If 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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why 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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

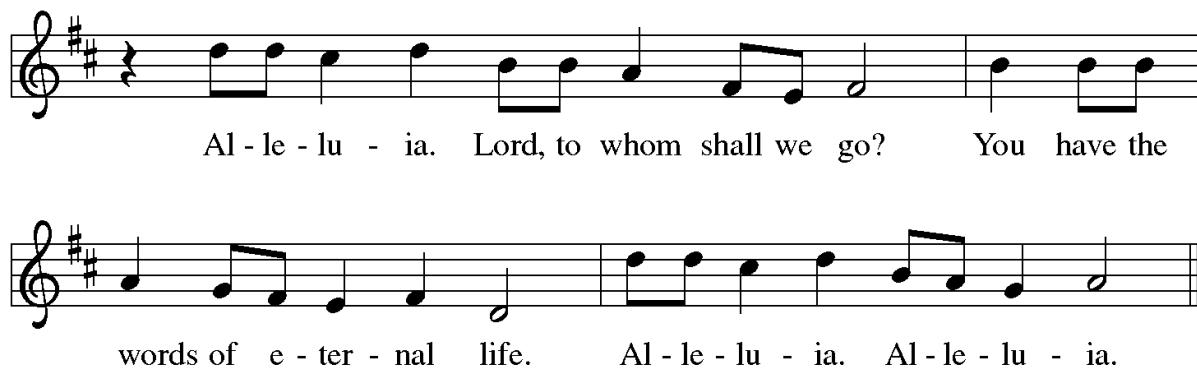
L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

## ELW Holy Communion: Setting Three



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL

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*Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)*

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

P The Holy Gospel as recorded in St. Matthew the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter 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?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, 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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But 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.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So 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.**

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SERMON

Pastor Dave Thomas

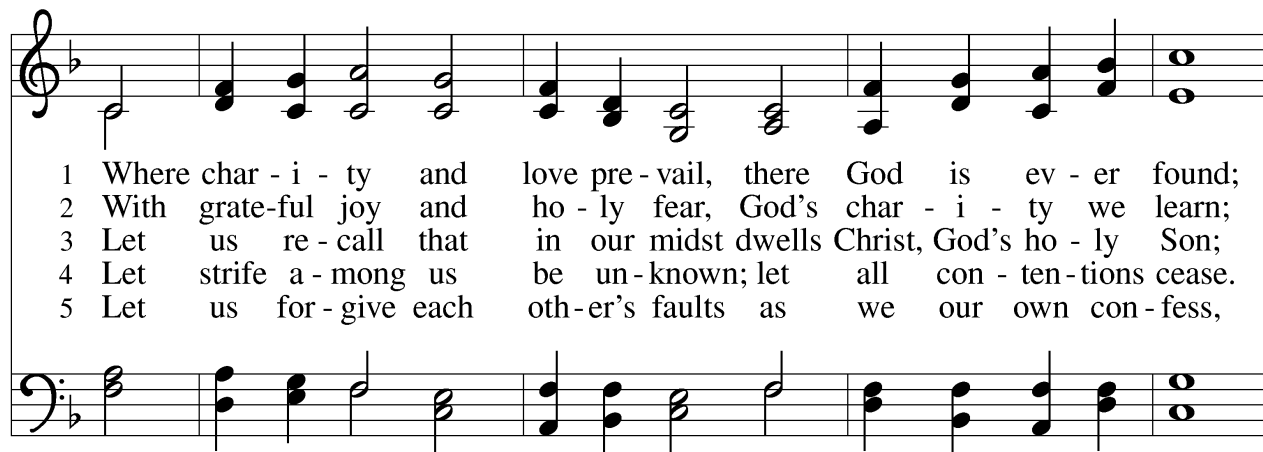
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*Forgiveness Math*

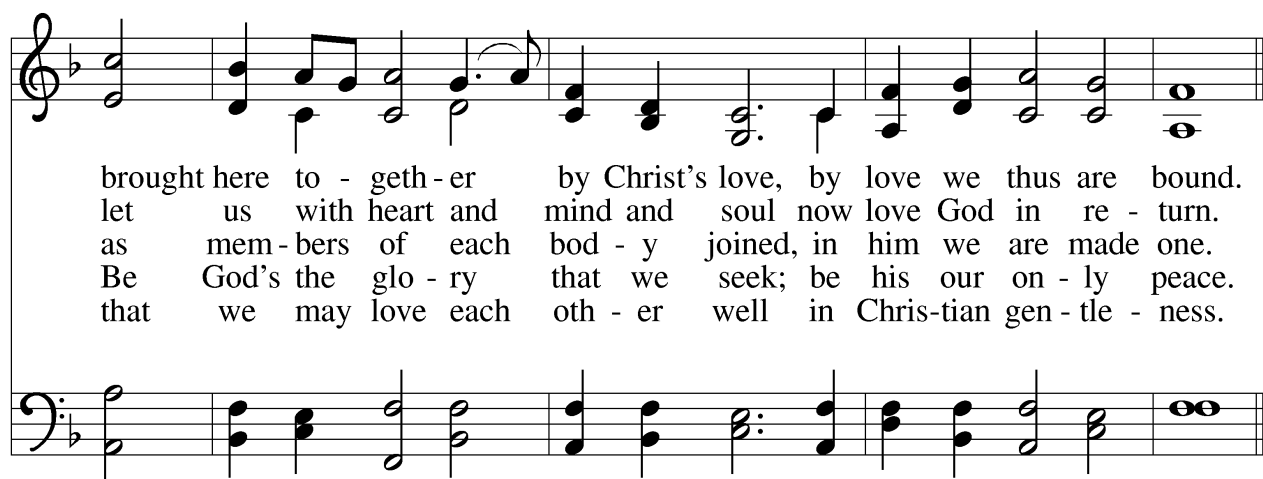
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## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #359

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends, "Hear us, O Lord."

To which the congregation responds, "**Your mercy is great.**"

### THE 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.

### OFFERING

Dean Robinson, organist

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face graciously shine upon you.  
The Lord's mercy and peace be yours,  
This day and forever.

C **Amen.**

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*O Christ, Our Hope*

1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's  
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den  
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som  
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us  
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry

might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by  
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to  
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in  
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by  
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through

ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:  
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.  
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.  
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.  
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.  
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

SENT TO SERVE

P Jesus said, "As I have been sent, so also I send you."

By God's grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to:

**C Worship God,  
Grow in Faith,  
Share the Gospel,  
Serve Others,  
Welcome All. — Thanks be to God!**

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