

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

### OPENING HYMN "Red Book" 74 vs. 1-4 Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy  
Lord God Almighty; And we lift our hearts before You as a  
Token of our love, Holy, holy, holy holy.

Gracious Father, Gracious Father, We're so blest to be Your  
Children, Gracious Father; And we lift our heads before You as a  
Token of our love, Gracious Father, Gracious Father.

Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus, We're so glad that You've redeemed  
Us, Precious Jesus; And we lift our hands before You as a  
Token of our love, Precious Jesus, Precious Jesus.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Come and fill our hearts a  
New, Holy Spirit; And we lift our voice before You as a  
Token of our love, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

### OPENING BLESSING

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

C: **Amen**

### WE CONFESS

P: How often should a person forgive another? In Jesus' day the answer to that question was three times as taught by the religious authorities. Jesus had a different answer. Jesus challenged his followers to forgive up to seventy times seven times. In other words.....Jesus was teaching that a person should always be willing to forgive. As we begin our service, we now take time to think about the many times that we have failed to show mercy, forgiveness, and love to others.

*Silence for reflection*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: Lord, we need Your mercy. In this hour, help us to see our sin and pain and pray for a fresh start. Help us to see the shortcomings in our lives and look to You for the answers to our problems. Give us a new vision of what life can be like. Teach us to hope, to love, to give and to have faith. Lord, we need Your mercy.**

P: Jesus explains in today's passage that when a certain master saw the great debt of one of his servants, he had pity on him, paid the debt and released the servant. In this parable, Jesus was showing God's great mercy for us. Through Jesus, God has had pity on us, paid the debt of sin and set us free to be the people He has called us to be. I announce this grace to you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE "Red Book" 47**

### **Freely, Freely**

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,  
I've been born again in Jesus' name;  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share His love as He told me to.  
He said, "Freely, freely you have received:  
Freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and because you believe,  
Others will know that I live."

All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name,  
In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share His pow'r as He told me to.  
He said, "Freely, freely you have received:  
Freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and because you believe,  
Others will know that I live."

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us Pray..... O God, you declare your almighty power mainly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

## FIRST LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

*What Joseph's brothers meant for harm, God meant for good*

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you."' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

## SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

*Paul warns us not to pass judgment*

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall confess to God."

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN "Green Book" 306 vs. 1-3 Chief of Sinners

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.

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.

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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

*Jesus challenges us to practice giving abundant grace*

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?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 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. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 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. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

SERMON Abundant Grace

PRAYER

**C: God, You desire all to live in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. With sorrow we admit that there is great brokenness in the lives of the people around us. Give us Your Spirit to do the things that are hard to do. Use the Spirit in us so that we can show compassion. Move us to forgive those who have hurt us. Then strengthen us to set them free. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Choir Oh, What a Beautiful Day

## APOSTLE'S 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**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken: P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer**)

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## OFFERING (Music)

## OFFERTORY

## BENEDICTION

## CLOSING HYMN "Red Book" 49 Glorify Thy Name

Father, we love Thee, we praise Thee, we adore Thee.  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth,  
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name.  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love Thee, we praise Thee, we adore Thee.  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth,  
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name.  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love Thee, we praise Thee, we adore Thee.  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth,  
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name.  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

## DISMISSAL