

Holy Eucharist

September 17, 2023

Zoom link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig94MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zzo>

9

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

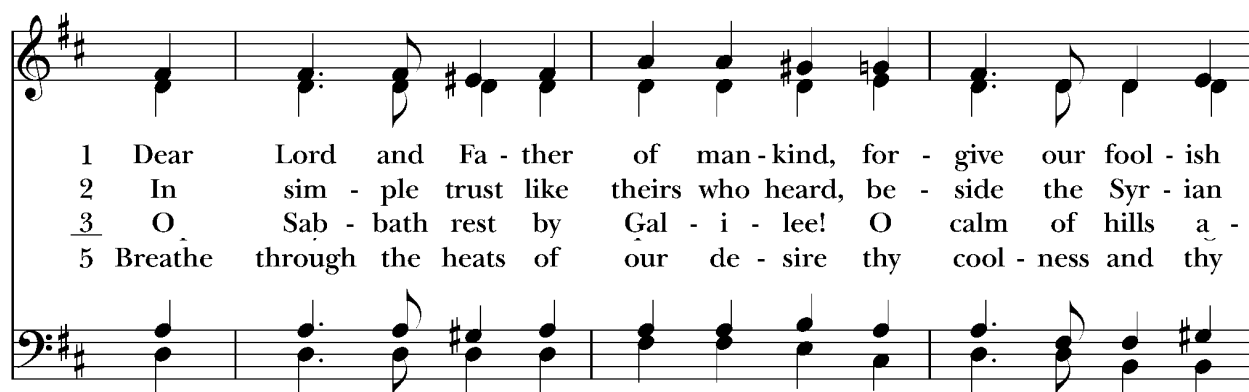
Proper 19A: the 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

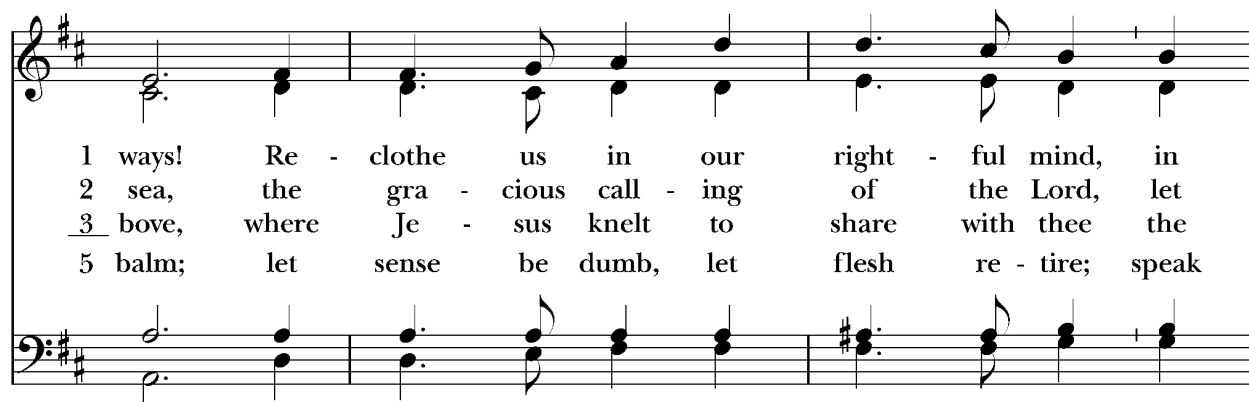
Opening Hymn

Hymnal 652

Dear Lord and Father of mankind



1 Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, for - give our fool - ish
2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian
3 O Sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -
5 Breathe through the heats of our de - sire thy cool - ness and thy



1 ways! Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in
2 sea, the gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, let
3 bove, where Je - sus knelt to share with thee the
5 balm; let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; speak



1 pur - er lives thy ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.
2 us, like them, with - out a word, rise up and fol - low thee.
3 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty in - ter - pret - ed by love!
5 through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

Presider Blessed be + God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Presider begins the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following is sung, all standing as they are able

Song of Praise

Soften my heart

Chorus Book 51

Soft-en my heart, Lord, soft-en my heart;
From all in - dif - frence set me a - part.
To feel Your com - pas - sion, to weep with Your tears;
Come soft-en my heart, O Lord, soft-en my heart.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever **Amen.**

All sit.

First Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

A Reading from the book of Exodus.

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Reade The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle:

to be read responsively, beginning with the men

The Songs of Moses and Miriam

God is my strength and my song *
and has become my salvation.

Let me glorify this God of mine! *

Let me magnify this God of my ancestors!

For valiant in battle is the God *
whose holy name is The Lord.

**The chariots and troops of Pharaoh *
were thrown into the sea;**

even the handpicked commanders *
 went down in the Red Sea waves.
The flood covered them over, *
and they sank into the depths like a stone.
 Your right hand, so glorious in battle, *
 your right hand, O Lord, shattered the foe.
In triumph you tumbled your adversaries; *
your fire consumed them like stubble.
 The blast of your breath piled up the waters: *
 the floods stood up like a towering wall;
in the very heart of the sea, *
the murky depths congealed.
 "I will chase and catch them!" crowed the enemy; *
 "I will plunder and fulfill my lust;
I will unsheathe my sharpened sword *
and destroy them by my own hand."
 Then you blew forth a mighty tempest *
 and the sea swallowed them up
so that they plummeted like lead *
in the billows that brought you glory.
 Who among the gods is mighty like you, O Lord? *
 Who is sovereign and awesome like you,
 a powerful worker of wonders?
Then Miriam the prophet, the sister of Aaron, *
raised a tambourine in her hand,
 and all the women danced after her with their tambourines *
 while Miriam led the song:
"Sing to the Lord, the Exalted One, *
who hurled horse and rider into the sea."

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵Some 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. ⁶Those 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.

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

¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written,

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

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

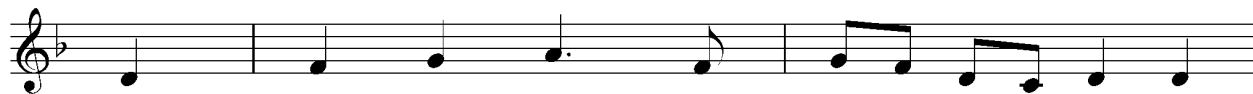
People **Thanks be to God.**

All then stand as they are able.

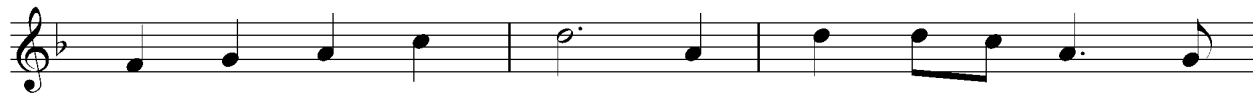
Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 674

Forgive our sins as we forgive



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give” you
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls, and



taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can
un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
truth we dim - ly knew, how small the debts men
bid re - sent - ment cease; then, re - con - ciled to



grant us grace to live the words we say.
will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owe to us, how great our debt to you.
God and man, our lives will spread your peace.

All remain standing as they are able.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

²¹Peter 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?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees

before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Larry Odom-Groh

All then stand as they are able.

Nicene Creed

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**
**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**
**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**
**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

All remain standing as they are able.

Prayers of the People

Presider Brothers and sisters, children of God, each of us is finally accountable to God. So let us pray, saying, “Lord, we are in need of your mercy; have patience with us.”

Intercessor Lord, we acknowledge that we all sin against our siblings in Christ. Forgive us even as we forgive each other. Help us to be merciful to each other in the Church. Lord, we are in need of your mercy; **have patience with us.**

Silence is kept

Lord, we acknowledge that we desire to repay violence with violence. Open our hearts to forgive even those who commit evil acts towards us and those we love. Help us to live mercifully in our world. Lord, we are in need of your mercy; **have patience with us.**

Silence is kept

Lord, we acknowledge we do not always appreciate the diversity of your creation. Teach us to live in peace with each other and with your creation. Help us to live mercifully with our world. Accept our thanks and praise for all the blessings you give abundantly to us [especially_____]. Lord, we are in need of your mercy; **have patience with us.**

Silence is kept

Lord, we acknowledge that we do not love our neighbors as you love us. Forgive us for placing ourselves as judge over others when judgment belongs to you alone. Help us to accept the great mercy you choose to show others. Lord, we are in need of your mercy; **have patience with us.**

Silence is kept

O Lord, you are ruler of all things in heaven and earth. Hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all a burning heart for our congregation, that all things necessary for our common life, and the embrace of the

ministries with which you have gifted everyone. Bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. Lord, we are in need of your mercy; **have patience with us.**

Silence is kept

Lord, we pray for those whose lives are broken by evil. Because of your mercy we believe that whatever befalls them, they belong to you; you care for the brokenhearted. Help us to share your love with all those who are hurting [especially_____]. Lord, we are in need of your mercy; **have patience with us.**

Silence is kept

Lord, we remember those who died by violence. We remember innocent bystanders, first responders, men and women of the armed services, and even those we have called enemies. The dead belong to you, O Lord. Even as we seek your mercy for ourselves, judge all those who have died with mercy [especially_____]. Lord, we are in need of your mercy; **have patience with us.**

Silence is kept

Presider For what other people and situations shall we pray today?

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All remain standing, or kneel, as they are able.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

A Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, + forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

All then stand as they are able.

Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Presider Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

The people stand as they are able when the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing as they are able

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presider proceeds

It is good and joyful to sing your praise, God of Moses and Miriam, for you are majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and glorious in power.

You rejoice in all you have made, and you have created all things to ring out your joy.

When your children were shackled as Pharaoh's slaves, you heard their cries, divided the waters of the sea, and opened a path to lead them to freedom on dry ground. When your people were captive to the bondage of sin, you sent your Son, full of your forgiving mercies, to release us, and to send us to share with others the grace we have ourselves received.

And so we give you thanks and extol your holy name, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, as we join in proclaiming your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

Delivering God, through your Son's dying and rising, you have released us from the debt of sin into the company of the forgiven.

Sanctify + us, who share this meal, to be a sign of jubilee hope in your freeing, redeeming, life-giving promise.

Send your Spirit + upon this bread and this cup of blessing, to be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

God of mercy, shape your church to embody the forgiveness you make possible in Christ.

Have compassion upon your daughters and sons who suffer the isolation of shame or disgrace.

Give courage and conviction to any who find it difficult to forgive a sibling from the heart, and console your children whose pleas for clemency are unheeded. Bring your kingdom near in every place where financial debt weighs down nations or households.

Draw us into your eternal life that, heralding your emancipation and proclaiming your liberation together with your people of every age, we may be bound to you forever in one perfect freedom, everlasting God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

The Presider then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.
Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

The Presider then says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

May the Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the **+** Holy eternal Majesty, the Holy incarnate Word, and the Holy abiding Spirit, bless you for evermore. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

LEVAS 189

Great is thy faithfulness

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;
2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
3. Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,
 2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,
 3. Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 2. To thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
 3. Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed,

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

Dismissal

Minister And now, my brothers and sisters, I bid you go out as did St Barnabas, the Encourager. Go out in peace to love and serve our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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This week in prayer

Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:

Our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA) **and for** all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

September 17 Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Church in Japan)

Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:

September 17 St Paul's, Jackson; Holy Name, Carreton, St Matthew's, Nizao, DR

St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer: Paislee, Jonah, Declan

and our continuing prayers for: Bob, Carlos, Jim M, Mardi, Robert, Selenah

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Faith in Action continues to provide leadership in collecting donations of food to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They remain in need of our support and help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to [Nancy](#) who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive is TODAY, September 17**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

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Upcoming Commemorations

- Sep 17 Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic and Scholar, 1179
- 18 Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, 1882; and,
Dag Hjalmar Agne Carl Hammarskjöld, 1961
- 19 Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690
- 20 John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871
- 21 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- 20 Philander Chase, Bishop, 1852; and,
Thecla of Iconium, Proto-Martyr among Women, c.70

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September 17, 2023 – Proper 19A, Pentecost 16

Exodus 14:19-31

The Israelites have escaped their enslavers and are on the way to the land God had promised to them. From the Egyptians' perspective, however, these Israelites are their rightful possessions that have been stolen away from them. On top of that, these Israelites are responsible for plagues that have laid waste to their land and have caused the deaths of many Egyptians. They probably found it quite reasonable to chase Israelites and bring them to justice.

Yet they are baffled when God steps in and serves as a shield for the escaping Israelites. They are caught by surprise when God jams their chariots and throws them into the sea. They cry out because God is siding with the Israelites even though they surely felt they were the wronged party.

Wars are not fought by good guys and bad guys but rather by two sides that both think they are in the right. All of us are sure we are right sometimes, only to find out that we are mistaken. It is humbling to recognize that there is a greater power at work that knows better than we do, and it takes great strength to accept when we are wrong with grace. Righteousness needs to be held lightly, tempered by open-mindedness to others and prayerfulness to God.

- Can you think of a time when you were so sure you were right that you were blind to the perspectives of others?
- What will help you gracefully accept times when you are wrong?

Psalm 114

Lots of questions surround the parting of the Red Sea. It is easy to get locked into a discussion over if it really happened or how it could have happened, like trying to figure out the trick behind the magician's act. This is a distraction, however, that draws us away from the point of the story: It is a story about a people who were powerless to save themselves and about God saving them. It is a story of salvation through grace.

This grand event of the splitting of the sea is an example of God's grace in action. The Israelites could not pat themselves on the back for a job well done. They shouted psalms of praise to God, knowing that no works they could ever do would be payment enough to buy God's love. God was to thank for all the blessings of their lives, and these blessings were gifts of grace.

It is easy to fool ourselves into thinking we have more power over our lives than we really do, forgetting to give thanks to God. Having self-confidence and taking pride in your accomplishments are great, but a healthy recognition that God's grace in our lives is important too – especially because God's love is freely given, regardless of anything we do to try to earn it.

- When do you find yourself distracted and forgetting to give thanks to God?
- When do you find your attention drawn to God's presence?

Romans 14:1-12

When Paul is writing the letter to the Christians in Rome, he is writing to a divided community: the Jewish Christians who were exiled from Rome and have since returned, versus the gentile Christians who had populated Rome in their absence. If this fledgling church was to survive, they would need to find a way past their differences, yet they struggle as if they were adversaries. Both the Jewish and gentile converts distrust and think themselves superior to the other, which sows disunity all around.

If there is one message Paul wants them to take to heart, it is that they are all the same in the only way that matters: They are God’s beloved, for whom Christ died so that they may live forever. None of their differences compares to their one, essential similarity.

We, too, are faced with people all around us who seem different. We all have different values and can use those to judge ourselves superior to others, but God has already judged us all and found us all worthy of love, compassion and salvation. Let us not focus too much on how our differences stack up against each other, and instead turn our focus toward the God who sees us and loves us all the same.

- What differences with others do you find you have a hard time overcoming?
- In what ways do you see judgment and disunity getting in the way of the work of the church?

Matthew 18:21-35

Any community needs to determine how it is going to handle judgment and justice. This parable about the two debtors is often used as an illustration about fairness, saying that the first slave should have treated the second slave as he himself had been treated. After all, the debt his lord had forgiven was more than 500,000 times as much money as the other slave owed him (see Coogan’s “New Oxford Annotated Bible, Third Edition,” Oxford Press, 2007), so the first slave’s behavior was hardly fair! This parable, however, is less about fairness than about how, fundamentally, Jesus values forgiveness.

Jesus precedes this parable by highlighting that forgiveness should be an overabundant principle. We should not even be thinking in terms of how much we should forgive; we should just forgive. We, like Peter, are being told that forgiving others – and forgiving ourselves – is never the wrong answer. The lowliest person is still worthy of forgiveness. The gravest transgression should still be forgiven. The most righteous and powerful people still need to forgive. Think of what a radical statement it would be for a society to say that their guiding principle is forgiveness!

If God has already forgiven Christ’s crucifixion, we should think carefully about what we are telling God and each other if we declare something unforgivable. We can have justice without losing sight of compassion, and righteousness without losing sight of forgiveness.

- When have you struggled with forgiving someone?
- When have you struggled with forgiving yourself?

This Bible study was written by Stephen M. Balke, Jr.

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Eucharistic prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher. *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids MI: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.274-275.

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.

St



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