

## The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13<sup>th</sup> 2020



### Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

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#### THE CHURCH YEAR:

The Old Testament reading, Jeremiah 15:15-21, shows us a prophet of the Lord who was tired and worn out. He was weary because no one wanted anything to do with him. And why? Because he preached what God revealed instead of what the people wanted to hear. In his distress, Jeremiah was tempted to question God, his power, his providence, his purpose. Therefore, the Lord needed to get Jeremiah back on track. But how? Now, God wouldn't make Jeremiah wildly successful and famous overnight, but he would strengthen him, making him a "fortified wall of bronze" that could withstand the harsh rigors of what was a very difficult ministry.

The Epistle lesson for the Sunday, Romans 12:1-8, contains an exhortation to a typical Christian congregation, an exhortation to get along, to work together, and to appreciate the rich fellowship that we have in Jesus Christ. True it is that gatherings of believers can be very much different from one another in many respects -- family heritage, appearance, size, shape, and vocation. Each Christian also is unique when it comes to respective gifts and talents, whether those gifts be preaching, teaching, encouraging, giving and the like. All too often in a sinful world such differences are the cause of strife. It should not be that way in the church. Our differences are meant to complement each other in making up that "one body in Christ."

In the Gospel selection, Matthew 16:21-26, we read about Christ's prediction of his future suffering, death and resurrection. Peter didn't care to hear such dark talk, so he began to rebuke Jesus for being so "negative." The Savior, in turn, rebuked Peter, and then reminded his followers that true discipleship often means sacrifice.

#### The Service

## 250 From All that Dwell below the Skies

1 From all that dwell below the skies Let the Creator's praise arise.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 Eternal are your mercies, Lord; Eternal is your glorious Word.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**M:** In Holy Baptism, God gives us the Holy Spirit, who works in us both the desire to throw off the slavery of sin and the power to live a new life.

May the Lord renew us in body, mind, and spirit.

### PRAYER

**M:** Let us pray.

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, you are our strength every morning, our salvation in times of distress. With contrite hearts and troubled spirits we come to you for healing and help. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and refresh us with your Holy Spirit, that we may declare your praise and teach your saving ways, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**M:** Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**C:** **Almighty God, merciful Father,**

**I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.**

**In what I have done and left undone,**

**I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.**

**I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.**

**For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

**I am truly sorry for my sins.**

**I repent of them.**

**I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

*Silence for meditation.*

**M:** Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**C:** **Cleanse me from my sins.**

**Release me from my guilt.**

**Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

**M:** The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.  
Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

#### **EXHORTATION**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

**C:** Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

#### **PRAYER**

**M:** Let us pray.

God, our Father, by the sacrifice of your Son you reconciled the world to yourself. We thank you for the precious gift of forgiveness. Refresh us with the joy of our salvation, that we walk in the way of peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Renew our minds and wills, that daily we may speak your word of peace, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### **Romans 12:1–8 (NIV84)**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

<sup>2</sup>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

<sup>4</sup>Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

<sup>5</sup>so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

<sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

<sup>7</sup>If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

<sup>8</sup>if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give

generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

#### **Matthew 16:21–26 (NIV84)**

<sup>21</sup>From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

<sup>22</sup>Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

<sup>25</sup>For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

<sup>26</sup>What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

## 259 When All Your Mercies, O My God

1 When all your mercies, O my God,  
My waking soul surveys,  
Transported with the view, I'm lost  
In wonder, love, and praise.

2 Ten thousand thousand precious gifts  
My daily thanks employ,  
Nor is the least a cheerful heart  
That tastes these gifts with joy.

3 Through ev'ry passing phase of life  
Your goodness I'll pursue  
And after death, in distant worlds,  
The glorious theme renew.

4 Through all eternity to you  
A joyful song I'll raise,  
But, oh, eternity's too short  
To utter all your praise.

## Sermon: Great Discoveries – Discovering God in Life – Genesis 28:16 (NIV84)

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

### LORD'S PRAYER

#### PRAYER FOR PEACE

**M:** Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

### BLESSING

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness. May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, † to whom be glory for ever and ever.

**C:** Amen.

## 324 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

1 Almighty God, your Word is cast  
Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend  
And righteous fruits abound.

2 Let not the foe of Christ and man  
This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart  
To bring forth fruits of love.

3 Let not the world's deceitful cares  
The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold  
The fruits of peace and joy.

4 Whene'er the precious seed is sown,  
Life-giving grace bestow  
That all whose souls the truth receive  
Its saving pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, abr., alt.