

Parish Three Lutheran Churches
9:00 A.M. Immanuel



...how often should
I forgive?
"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

September 17, 2023
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor John Heille
Organist: Anita Eden

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: O LORD, our Lord,

C: how majestic is your name in all the earth!

P: You have set your glory above the heavens.

**C: From the lips of children and infants
you have ordained praise. (Psalm 8:1-2a)**

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able

GATHERING HYMN

“Earth and All Stars!”

LBW #558

vs. 1-3

SERVICE OF THE WORD DIALOGUE

“Blessed are you...”

LBW page 126

APOSTLE’S CREED

LBW page 128

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(in unison)*

O Lord God, merciful judge, **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. Amen.**

Please be seated

GOD’S WORD SHARED

FIRST READING **Exodus 14:19-31**

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh’s forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the Lord and in the Lord’s servant Moses.

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.

Leader: "The Word of the Lord"

All: "Thanks be to God"

PSALM Psalm 114

¹Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

²**Judah became God's sanctuary
and Israel God's dominion.**

³The sea beheld it and fled;
Jordan turned and went back.

⁴**The mountains skipped like rams,
and the little hills like young sheep.**
⁵What ailed you, O sea, that you fled,
O Jordan, that you turned back,
⁶**you mountains, that you skipped like rams,
you little hills like young sheep?**
⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
⁸**who turned the hard rock into a pool of water
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

SECOND READING Romans 14:1-12

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.

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.

Leader: “The Word of the Lord”

All: “Thanks be to God”

HYMN

“Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven”

LBW #549

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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

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.”

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Set Free

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.
Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt other people.
We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.

You are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE**OFFERING****OFFERTORY**

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

LBW #410

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LBW page 130

THE SENDING

BENEDICTION

LBW page 130

SENDING HYMN

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"

LBW #558

vs. 4-6

POSTLUDE

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PRAYERS

We offer prayers of healing and comfort for those in our church families and communities who are ill, suffering, or coping with a loss. Please include in your prayers: Nick Heille (Pastor John's Dad), Dixie Buns, Russ Bruns, Avon Rurup, all active military, our folks in nursing homes, and our Bishops Eaton and Halaas.

THIS WEEK AT PARISH THREE

9/20/2023 6:00 PM Newsletter Deadline
9/20/2023 6:00 PM W.O.W. @ St. John's
9/20/2023 6:30 PM Confirmation @ Good Hope
9/24/2023 9:00 AM Worship @ St. John's w/Communion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****Choir Picnic TONIGHT!** Don't forget the choir picnic at 6:00p.m. this evening at Carole's. There will be brats, hamburgers, bottled water, and tableware provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

****"Undie Sunday"** The Western Iowa Synod is asking congregations to donate underwear to their local shelters. This is an often overlooked need that is crucial for the care of the unhoused. Through the month of September there will be donation boxes at Immanuel & St. John's. Donations should be new and in original packages. Both children and adult sizes are needed.

****Pastor John will be gone** for the Synod Fall Theological Convocation on September 17th thru 19th.