

Worship in the Home

Sunday after Pentecost



“Come...Be a Part of Peace!”

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034

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September 13, 2020

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.



Set out and light a candle and you may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Service of the Word

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel, sit or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

Devotional Music

You might now sing or read “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

<https://youtu.be/DD2e2N9Nvbk>

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

834

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



Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.



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.



Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even 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. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13

May be sung or read in response to the First Reading.



[¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

**²Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—**

³who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;

**⁴who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

**⁶O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.]

**⁸LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**

⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

**¹⁰You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

**¹²As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**

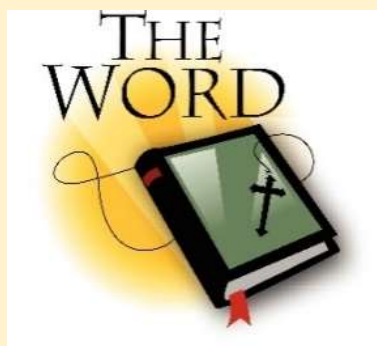
¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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. ²³For 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON—Pastor Ida Iverson

“FORGIVENESS: WE CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH”

Friends in Christ, grace, and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The lessons for today deal with forgiveness, not only who we should forgive, but how often we should forgive and the outcome of forgiveness.

We begin with Joseph and his brothers. Remember how jealous the brothers were because he was their father's favorite? He was the son from Jacob's favorite wife...Rachel. Their jealousy led them to selling him, dipping his coat of many colors in blood, bringing it back to their father, and telling him that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal and devoured. Jacob grieved deeply and no one could console him. Eventually he had another son by Rachel named Benjamin, but Joseph could never be replaced.

Go forward several years and a great famine covered the land. Except that in Egypt by following Joseph's interpretation of the Pharaoh's dream, they had stored grain during the years of good harvests and they had grain to spare. Knowing that Egypt had grain to spare, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain to bring back to feed their families. The person they encountered that they were to deal with was none other than their brother Joseph who they had sold many years before. Joseph knew who they were, but they did not recognize him.

Eventually Joseph was reunited with the entire family including their father, but when Jacob died Joseph's brothers thought that now he would take revenge on them for what they had done years before. Joseph told them that what they had done was for evil, but God had a plan for good and he had forgiven them long before. This is a dramatic story of forgiveness rather than a tale of life-long grudges and revenge.

The Psalm for today is one of reassurance to God's goodness for his people and it does include you and me. It might be one of those verses that you might want to post up somewhere so that you would read it on a regular basis. It is so important for us not to forget how much God loves and cares for us. Verse 10 is like putting a beautiful bow on a package: ***“You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.”*** Yes, we have a God that loves us, cares for us and wants us to know all the goodness he has planned for our lives. Oh, if we only get out of his way, instead of always wanting to do it our way.

What Paul is trying to get across to the members of the early church in Rome, and as we read it yet today, is meet people where they are at. Do not judge them harshly but get to know them. They had their own traditions before you met them and if you try to force them to change those traditions you will never come to have a relationship with them.

I remember from one of my classes at seminary that dealt with different traditions. We had a speaker who came to us from the Native American community who was a Christian and how in their faith community incorporated sweat lodges. We had a young Moong woman who was a Lutheran pastor who talked to us about the missionaries who had sponsored many of them to come to America. They were of a different denomination and insisted that the Moongs could no longer use hemp fabric to make their clothing if they genuinely wanted to be Christians. I remember when I heard that I thought about all the Lutheran churches that are in rural communities where the Scandinavian women used their hardanger skills to make the paraments for the altars and pulpits. It was their gift of love to God. For the Moongs, they needed clothing to last a long time and hemp fabric is sturdy and lasts a long time. Father Berry and I would chuckle about how upset the local Baptist pastor would get with us because many a Friday night you would find us at the VFW for fish fry. He would ask us how we could go and eat with all those heathens. We would just say, you met people where they are at and you never know where the conversation will go.

Now we come to the meat of today's gospel. Peter, Peter, Peter the questions you ask. Except how could he learn if he did not ask questions? How many times must I forgive a member of the church...seven times? If I were Jesus, I think I would have come back with a question to him like, "How many times do you want to be forgiven?" Thank goodness Jesus is not like me and instead he tells him this great parable about a king that decided to clean up his books and discovered that one of his slaves (????) owed him what would be billions of dollars today. An amount that he would never be able to repay in his lifetime and the king forgave him. Marked the ledger, Paid in Full.

Great story but it does not end there. This same slave, who had just received the greatest gift of a lifetime, was to be forgiven from having to even try and payback all that he owed. So, here he is with his chest puffed out, might even be whistling a happy tune, he runs into another slave who just happens to owe him in comparison a piddling amount of money. You would think that after being given this gift of forgiveness of all his debt, he would be willing to forgive this other man. No, instead he insists that he pay him back immediately, and when he cannot pay he has him thrown in prison.

Of course, he was found out and it was reported to the king what he had done to his fellow slave. The king you might say took the paid in full bill and ripped it up and told him he will be tortured for the rest of his life until he pays his debt in full. It seems so harsh. I mean, I have always believed that God's forgiveness is limitless and he does not take his forgiveness back. This does not sound like very good news, now does it? So how do we reconcile this lesson about forgiveness and what we see Jesus trying to tell Peter? I think that he is trying to tell Peter that God's forgiveness is limitless and greater than anybody can imagine. That nobody is to keep a ledger against another person as to how many times you are to forgive them. There is no magic number. You are never to stop forgiving another. What you Peter, and everyone who has followed are to do, is forgive as God forgives. It will not always be easy to forgive another person and it does not mean that you will forget what they did, but by forgiving you can move forward. You are no

longer stuck in your anger or resentment. Rev. Phyllis Wolkenhauer said it well: *“How many times should I forgive someone who sins against me? Do it until you lose count. And then give it over to God whose forgiveness knows no end.”* I would say that Jesus’ answer to Peter was to forgive as many times as you want to be forgiven...oh, and Peter I forgive you of all your sins.

Let me share one more story. There was a country doctor and many times those he treated were unable to pay for his services He would tell them, when you are able, but do not worry about it. When he knew he was about to die, he took out his ledger and any family that still owed him money he wrote in red ink, Paid in Full. After he died his wife knew that he was owed quite a lot of money from families, so she decided to take them to court. The judge took one look at the ledger and said to her, “I do not see a single account that has not been paid in full. These families do not owe you anything if they did all was forgiven.”

When Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, he will say to you and me, your debt is paid in full...all is forgiven. Amen.



Hymn of The Day

You might now sing or read “Our Father, We Have Wandered”

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

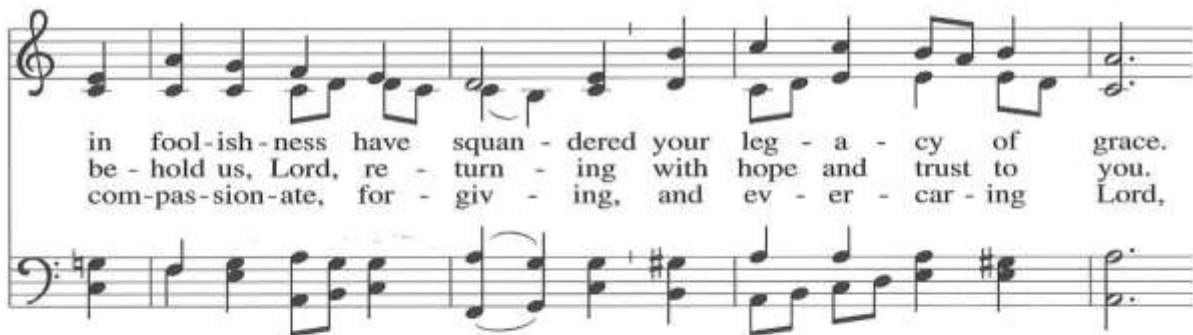
<https://youtu.be/auEg6NFYipE>

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Our Father, We Have Wandered



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The Apostles' + Creed +

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Then read the prayers of intercession, as follows.



Prayers of Intercession

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world and all those in need.

A brief silence.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through reading and studying your word along with daily devotionals as we discover new ways to nurture new ministries and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom especially all those now running for elected offices whether nationally, statewide, and locally. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger and bring healing and peace to those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Rev. Pat Harris, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, all those who serve in the military, Donna and Orv Lind, Sue Whitman, Jo Kruer, Lloyd Cotner, Tammy & Greg Olive, Baby William, Kim Cole, James Ryan Kruer, Kay Bozeman, Judy Harris, Elmer Wessel, Milton Wilford, be with those whose lives have been disrupted by wild fires, community unrest and violent storms, those dealing with the Covid-19 virus whether they are healing from it or have a fear of contacting it.

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of joy be with Sherry Vaughn, Emmy Lou Sorum and Ricky Shook this week on their birthdays along with Samantha & Eric Stommel and Terry & Darren Smith on their anniversaries. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



Lords Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Then speak the Blessing:

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
surround and sustain you,
keep you from harm,
and fill you with courage.

Amen.



Sending Hymn

“Go My Children, with My Blessing”

Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing

https://youtu.be/laC_334rk9w

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

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1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
Go in peace to love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Readings of the Week:

Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 50:15-21, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday after Pentecost Jonah 3:10-4:11, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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IN NEED OF PRAYER

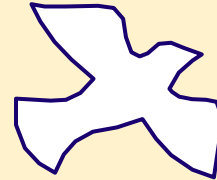
We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Lloyd & Jane Cotner - Room 3106
Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

Savannah Grand

Jo Krueer - Room 332
Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit



At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Billy Foster / Gertie Schreffler / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager/ Ted Wessel / Lloyd Cotner/ Orv Lind / Donna Lind / Bill Mungo Sr./ Lloyd Cotner / Jo Krueer / Lucy Creel / Judy Harris / Pat Harris /Kay Bozeman, Sue Whitman



Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer)
Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA
Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Maryland at Ft. Meade (daughter of Sue Whitman)
Andy Shook, US Army, (son of Ricky Shook)
Sgt. Rob Kinnard (Afghanistan)

Components of an Effective Prayer

"A"	ADORATION	Worship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits
"C"	CONFESSION	If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness
"T"	THANKSGIVING	Gratitude to GOD for His blessings
"S"	SUPPLICATION	Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

*Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list.
We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.*