

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2020**

**WELCOMING WORD** Conflict is a part of relationship and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are good counsel in dealing with disagreements, and Paul reminds us that "love is the fulfilling of the law".

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

**C: and I will observe it to the end.**

L: Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

**C: Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.**

## **OPENING HYMN # 734 *Softly & Tenderly Jesus Is Calling***

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

### **REFRAIN**

Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? **REFRAIN**

Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. **REFRAIN**

## **CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin,

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: Reconciling God,

**C: We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us: through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P: Beloved of God, by the abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **INVOCATION**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O Lord God,

**C: enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-11** <sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their

iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand.<sup>9</sup> But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.<sup>10</sup> Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?"<sup>11</sup> Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

**SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:8-14** <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself."<sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;<sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;<sup>13</sup> let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.<sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20** <sup>15</sup>"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

## MESSAGE – Pastor John Twiton

### HYMN # 370 *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The unity of heart and mind is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes; Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

From sorrows, toil, and pain and sin we shall be free;  
And perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

## CONFSSION OF FAITH

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** Of all the gifts which you have given us, we treasure your Holy Spirit, O God. In gratitude for guidance and discernment, we offer these tributes before you and ask your blessing. May our lives be a blessing to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

L: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

L: Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Grant wisdom, grace and courage to Bishop-elect Joy Mortensen-Wiebe as she prepares to serve the South Central Synod of Wisconsin. Guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, fires, floods, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths that lead to peace, justice, and reconciliation. Teach us to recognize the value of each person and work to protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Surround by your grace all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit (especially...). Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: On this Labor Day weekend, sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**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. 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.**

**BENEDICTION** May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again

**CLOSING HYMN: #520 Give to Our God Immortal Praise!**

Give to our God immortal praise! Mercy and truth are all his ways;  
Wonders of grace to God belong. Repeat his mercies in your song.

He sent his son with pow'r to save from guilt and darkness and the grave.  
Wonders of grace to God belong. Repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown; The King of kings with glory crown.  
His mercies ever shall endure when lords and kings are known no more!

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Diane Pladziewicz  
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)  
Delores Bryant  
Brock Howe  
Dorothy Jelle  
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)  
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)  
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)  
Harlan Oimoen  
Grace Aavang  
Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)  
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)  
Makenzee Smith  
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)  
Martha Hartman  
Jeannie U'Ren  
Ruth Ann Nemet  
Irene Bruflat  
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)  
Bill Steinhauer  
Peter Toniazza  
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)  
Julie Joles and her daughter and granddaughter



## **DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2020**

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 119:65-72, The goodness of God's law  
Tuesday, Romans 13:1-7, Be Subject to Authorities  
Wednesday, Matthew 21:18-22, Jesus Curses the Fig Tree  
Thursday, Psalm 103:8-13, Thanksgiving for God's goodness  
Friday, Genesis 41:53-42:17, Joseph's Brothers go to Egypt  
Saturday, Matthew 6:7-15, Jesus teaches the disciples to pray

**TALK:** Consider some of these ideas: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law" Romans 13:8 The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

- How often do our words, thoughts, and actions uphold the most basic of Jesus' teachings – "love your neighbor as yourself"? How easy is it to find reasons to neglect that duty?
- How often are we silent in the face of unloving words, attitudes and actions by others?
- Paul tells us to 'wake from sleep', in other words, to get moving. How often do we put off doing or saying the loving thing for some other time?

**PRAY:** O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**BLESS:** May you see reconciliation in Jesus love. Amen!