



**September 13, 2020**  
**15th Sunday After Pentecost**  
**God's Work, Our Hands**

**Welcome**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

Bless the Lord, and forget not all God's benefits:

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;  
who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;  
who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever. You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you. As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

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

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. Amen.**

**Greeting**

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

**Prayer of the Day** (See Celebrate insert)

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:21-35 (See Celebrate insert)

**Sermon** (Pastor Meredith McGrath)

**Prayers of Intercession** (See Celebrate insert)

**Lord's Prayer**

**Commissioning/Sending** (See reverse side)

When Moses first fled from Egypt, he found solace at a well. Women came to water their flock of sheep. Other shepherds tried to drive them away. Moses intervened and helped them draw water. **God's Work, Our Hands.**

They invited Moses, this stranger in a strange land, to join their family for a meal. **God's Work, Our Hands.**

When Naomi returned to Israel, Ruth came with her. Naomi taught Ruth about where she could gather food for them, how to stay safe, what parts of the law could protect them. **God's Work, Our Hands.**

Ruth gathered food for them, trusting Naomi's advice. They found family with each other and with Boaz. **God's Work, Our Hands.**

When the gathered crowd of thousands, who had been listening to Jesus, was hungry, he blessed a few dried fish and loaves of bread. The disciples began passing them around and there was enough for all. **God's Work, Our Hands.**

Today we have gathered to worship our God and to serve our God by serving our community. As you serve today, know that you are part of God's ongoing story and care for the world. **God's Work, Our Hands.**

Go forth, blessed by God to be a blessing for others. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Elements of the Celebrate<sup>©</sup> Insert for September 13, 2020

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### Introduction to the day

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

### Prayer of the Day

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.**

### Prayers of Intercession

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

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of the 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*). 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 guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. 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.**

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 (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*). 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.**

For readings, refer to your Bible or use an online Bible source, such as [Bible Gateway](https://www.biblegateway.com/). [NOTE: The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is used.]