

Nativity Lutheran Church Worship September 13, 2020  
The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of  
creation.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another**

**before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our  
neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.  
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

**Amen.**

Opening Hymn

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, ELW #834*

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.**

Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

You may follow along in your Bible if you would like to

Psalm

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>**O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

] <sup>8</sup>**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,**

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

<sup>10</sup>**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who  
fear you.

<sup>12</sup>**As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions  
from us.**

<sup>13</sup>**As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear  
you, O LORD.**

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

You may follow along in your Bible if you would like to

## Sermon

Hymn: *O God of Every Nation* ELW #713

## Prayers

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 Bible studies and Sunday schools, adult education and family ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth at Nativity. 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 in this election year.

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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**

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## Offering Prayer

Living and true God, **we give to you the things that are yours—our skills, our time, our possessions, our selves. Bless us and these your gifts. Move us to works of faith and labors of love for the good of all your people and the wholeness of your creation; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Back to School Blessing

### Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word, for calling creation into being, declaring forgiveness from the cross, and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

**We praise you, O God, for your Word.**

Your word is a lamp lighting our path, a mirror reflecting our selves a shield providing us refuge, a fire burning for justice and truth.

Your word is sweeter than honey: it nourishes our bodies like milk, it sustains your people like bread. We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.

**We bless you, O God, for your Word.**

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints, and to all the cries of the needy.

Breathe into your church the mighty  
Spirit of Christ,  
that heeding your voice of beauty and power  
we are strengthened to serve  
wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit –  
the Source, Word, and Breath --  
**We offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.  
Amen.**

#### Lord's 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

Sisters and brothers  
stand firm in one spirit;  
strive side by side for the faith of the gospel;  
let your gentleness be known by everyone;  
and the God of peace,  
The Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and bless you always.  
**Amen.**

Closing Hymn: *O Christ, Our Hope*, ELW #604

#### Postlude

#### Dismissal

Our worship has ended but our service has just begun. Go in peace, serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

#### Announcements

#### Fellowship time

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#### Scripture for individual devotions or study this week:

<b>Mon – Sept 14</b>	Genesis 48:8-22	Hebrews 11:23-29	Psalm 133
<b>Tue – Sept 15</b>	Genesis 49:29–50:14	Romans 14:13–15:2	Psalm 133
<b>Wed – Sept 16</b>	Genesis 50:22-26	Mark 11:20-25	Psalm 133
<b>Thu – Sept 17</b>	Nahum 1:1, 14–2:2	2 Corinthians 13:1-4	Psalm 145:1-8
<b>Fri – Sept 18</b>	Nahum 2:3-13	2 Corinthians 13:5-10	Psalm 145:1-8
<b>Sat – Sept 19</b>	Zephaniah 2:13-15	Matthew 19:23-30	Psalm 145:1-8

Revised Common Lectionary readings for next Sunday, September 20, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16