

**HOLY COMMUNION: *Setting Four, September 13, 2020***  
**15th Sunday after Pentecost - *modified***

**GATHERING**

**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.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Song:

**LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING**

Kenyan traditional, tr. Howard S. Olson

**REFRAIN**

Listen, listen, God is calling  
Through the Word inviting,  
Offering forgiveness,  
Comfort and joy. (Repeat)

1. Jesus gave his mandate:  
Share the good news.  
That he came to save us  
And set us free. **REFRAIN**

2. Let none be forgotten  
Throughout the world.  
In the triune name of God  
Go and baptize. **REFRAIN**

3. Help us to be faithful,  
Standing steadfast,  
Walking in your precepts,  
Led by your Word. **REFRAIN**



## **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS** - *responsive*

A As we journey by faith in our world, let us acknowledge our sins and failures before God.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

A For our indifference toward His presence in our midst,

**C We confess to you, Lord.**

A For our desire to control the time and seasons of our own destinies,

**C We confess to you, Lord.**

A For our injustices toward others – those we know and those we don't know,

**C We confess to you, Lord.**

A For lack of concern for those who will come after us,

**C We confess to you, Lord.**

A In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all of our sins. To those of us who believe in Jesus Christ, he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on us the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

ELW 574

### **Here I Am, Lord**

“I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”

#### **REFRAIN:**

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.



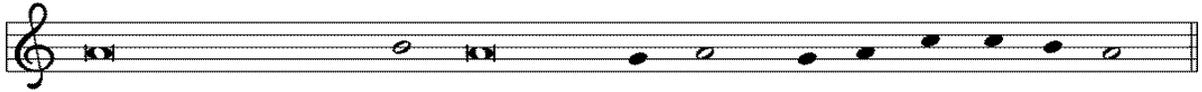
# Kyrie



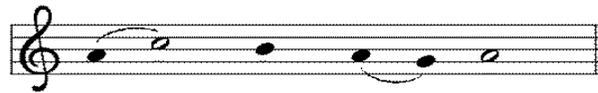
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



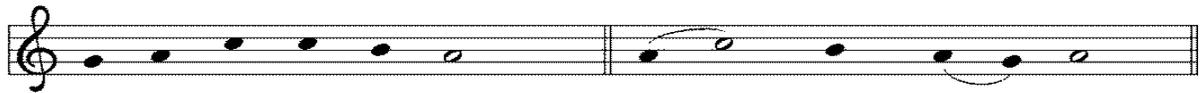
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



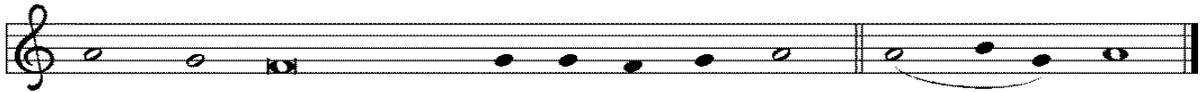
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*(Assisting Minister)*

## **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.**

## **GOD'S WORD**

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>21</sup>Peter 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?"

<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, 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.

<sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But 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.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

<sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

*The reading is concluded: The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(Assisting Minister)*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION for September 13, 2020

Gracious God, you are the Great Physician in all of our lives. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the corona virus, healing all who are sick with this virus. Give courage and strength to all of us through this time. Lord in Your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God: comfort, heal and restore the thousands of residents and businesses in Midland and Gladwin counties affected by the two failed dams that caused wide spread flooding throughout these mid-Michigan communities. Lord in your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God, lead our President and Congress towards reconciliation and mutual collaboration for the good of our country's future as 'one nation under God'. Lord in Your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God, continue to equip our church council, our church committees and the whole congregation in carrying out the ministries of Your Church. Lord in Your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for the sick, the homebound, those grieving loved ones who have died, those listed in our church bulletin prayer list and those we lift up this morning, either silently or out loud... Lord in Your Mercy... **Hear Our Prayer.**

Gracious God, hear the prayers of your people today and always. **Amen!**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

***(Assisting Minister)***

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.  
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.  
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,  
nourish us with this rich food and drink,  
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,  
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING** *(responsive)*

A God of our ancestors, friend in our midst,  
your children come before you.  
Here is food! Here is drink!  
These things are yours before they are ours.  
Now we are making a feast, but it is a thanksgiving:  
God, we are thanking you.  
With our ancestors in faith and all the hosts in heaven,  
O God, we thank you and rejoice.  
This food - we shall eat it in your honor!  
This drink - we shall drink it in your honor!

A We thank you for giving us life.

**C We thank you!**

A We thank you for giving us freedom.

**C We thank you!**

A We thank you for bringing us peace.

**C We thank you!**

A We thank you for the one who bore our sins upon the cross.

**C We thank you!**

A We thank you for the one who brought us over from death to life.

**C We thank you!**

A Father, send the Spirit of life, The Spirit of power and fruitfulness.  
With the Spirit's breath, speak your word into these things.  
Give us who eat and drink the living body and the lifeblood of Jesus,  
life and power and fruitfulness of heart and body.  
Give us true communion with your Son.

P On the night of his suffering,  
he gave thanks for the bread that he held in his hands.  
This bread he shared among his followers, saying:  
'All of you, take this, eat this;  
it is my body, handed over for you.  
Do this and remember me.'

**C The body of Christ! Amen.**

P Then he shared drink with them, saying:  
'All of you, take this, drink this; it is my blood, the blood of the  
new covenant that begins now and lasts forever.  
This blood is poured out for you and for all people so that sins  
may be taken away. Do this and remember me.'

**C The blood of Christ! Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.  
Come, for all is prepared.  
**Amen.**

### **COMMUNION**

#### **TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen us and keep us in His grace.  
**Amen.**

*(Assisting Minister)*

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.  
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard  
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,  
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ  
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine on us and  
be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with great favor and give... us  
peace.  
**Amen.**

#### **SENDING HYMN**

ELW 742

#### **What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear -  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**