SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forgiving is Giving

AS WE GATHER

“To err is human, to forgive divine”

This familiar saying is by Alexander Pope. Although it is not a quote from the Bible it is an accurate summary of biblical teaching about forgiveness. Sinners sin and do not forgive. Yet God forgives us, and we act in godlike (divine) ways when we also forgive.

Pope’s brilliant saying summarizes two important truths from the Bible. The first is a truth about US: We are sinners, hard-wired by the effects of original sin to do wrong: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Doing wrong includes holding onto grudges, anger, bitterness and looking for ways to get even, not to make peace.

The other truth is about GOD: God loves us and forgives a mountain of “wickedness, rebellion and sin” when we turn to Him in repentance and faith because Jesus Christ has paid for our sins on the cross. But God’s forgiveness doesn’t end there, merely with God forgiving us. His forgiveness is multiplied and flows through us when we forgive others. Forgiving others is “normal activity” for those touched and transformed by grace.

Though we are sinners from conception, the Holy Spirit transforms and gives us the capacity to love like God does: to forgive even the unforgiveable in others, as God has done for us through Christ. In fact, those led by the Holy Spirit have the command to pass on this divine attribute: “Freely you have received; freely give.” (Matthew 10:8). Jesus even put forgiveness into his model Lord’s Prayer: “Forgive us our sins AS we forgive those who have sinned against us.” Forgiving others is part and parcel of what it means to be “reborn” in Christ. Our old sinful nature which is inclined toward retribution is no longer in charge. When we “put on Christ,” our new nature, a divine one, acts in divine ways. We no longer revel in anger or devise ways to strike back. We freely GIVE to others what Christ has freely GIVEN to us. That’s the theme of pastor’s message today: “Forgiving is for-GIVING.”
PRELUDE  “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”  Paul Manz

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN  “We Are *Marching in the Light of God”  WOV 650
Verse 2: * Singing…
Verse 3: * Dancing…
Verse 4: * Praying…

INVOCATION
Pastor:  In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People:  Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES  Psalm 119:41, 49–50, 81, 89–90a
Pastor:  Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,
People:  Your salvation according to Your promise.
Pastor:  Remember Your word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope.
People:  This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise gives me life.
Pastor:  My soul longs for Your salvation;
People:  I hope in Your word.
Pastor:  Forever, O LORD, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.
People:  Your faithfulness endures to all generations.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
Pastor:  If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
People:  But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

Pastor:  Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
People:  Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Pastor:  Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ,
and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the * Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

🌟 WORD 🌟

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: 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.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Praise Be to Christ”

Verses 1, 3

LSB 538

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING: Ephesians 4:29-5:2

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those
who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: I John 2:1-9

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

**VERSE**  
*Colossians 2:6b–7a*

**Pastor:** Alleluia. As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him.  
**People:** Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL:** *Luke 6:37-42*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.  
**People:** Glory to You, O Lord.

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”  
He also told them this parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.  
“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**People:** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”  
*LSB 411*

**SERMON**  
“Forgive Is For Giving”  
Pastor John Larson  
TEXT: *Matthew 6:12*

**STATEMENT OF FAITH: The Fifth Petition**  
*Page 324 in front of the Hymnal.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.  
Lord, Your strong Word shattered the darkness in the beginning. Thank You, God, for the light of this day. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**People:** hear our prayer!
Pastor: Lord, You spoke Your mighty Word and brought order out of the unformed void. Thank You, God, for the rhythms and seasons of Your world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer!

Pastor: Lord, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, into our fallen world to be the radiance of Your glory and the exact imprint of Your nature. Thank You, God, for displaying and sharing Your fullness in the incarnation of Your one and only Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer!

Pastor: Lord, give us grace always to hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer!

Pastor: Lord, give us grace always to trust Your Word and put it into practice in our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer!

Pastor: Lord, give us grace always to share Your Word, relying on Your Spirit for the strength to “speak Your truth in love.” Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer!

Pastor: Lord, be with, encourage, and sustain those who need the consolation of Your Word and presence at this time, [especially . . .]. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer!

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, giver and perfecter of our faith, we thank and praise You for continuing among us the proclamation of the Gospel for our instruction and edification. Send Your blessing upon the Word, which has been spoken to us, and by Your Holy Spirit increase our saving knowledge of You. Every day grant that we be strengthened in the divine truth and remain steadfast in Your grace. Give us strength to fight the good fight and by faith to overcome all the temptations of Satan, the flesh, and the world, and that we finally receive the salvation of our souls. Help us to forgive others as we have been forgiven! For You, Lord Jesus, reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Other petitions may be included here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.
OFFERING

OFFERTORY  “Think About His Love”                    Walt Harrah
           Duet: Pastors Larson and Zehnder, soloists

CHORUS:  Think about His love
         Think about His goodness
         Think about His grace
         That's brought us through
         For as high as the heaven's above
         So great is the measure
         Of our Father's love
         Great is the measure
         Of our Father's love

How could I forget His love
How could I forget His mercy
He satisfies
He satisfies
He satisfies my desires
CHORUS

Even when I've strayed away
His love has sought me out
And found me
He satisfies
He satisfies
He satisfies my desires
CHORUS

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.
SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
   2 Timothy 4:22  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
   [Colossians 3:1]  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
   [Psalm 136]  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in
remembrance of Me.”
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**LORD’S PRAYER**  *Matthew 6:9–13*  
*Text found in the back of the Hymnal.*

**AGNUS DEI**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”  *WOV 733*

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”  *WOV 734*

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (Organ)  Michael Burkhardt

“Freely, Freely”  Carol Owens

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name I've been born again in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you To share His love as He told me to

**CHORUS:** He said freely freely You have received
Freely freely give Go in My name
And because you believe Others will know that I live

All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share His pow'r as He told me to  **CHORUS**
GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: Amen.

HYMN “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” *LSB 922*

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE “Praise!” *Gilbert Martin*

We will be like him ....

1 John 3:2, NRSV
He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk even as He walked.

1 John 2:6
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT: Pastor John Larson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT: Diana Gaide
YOUTH BAND: Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER: 8:00 Roger Gaide 10:00 Don Loptien
LECTOR: 8:00 Scott Luethy 10:00 Ted Lemke
ACOLYTE: 8:00 Ann Ranisate 10:00 Espen Erling
USHERS: 8:00 Hank Peepgrass, Members of the Congregation 10:00 Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation
SERVER: 10:00 Margo Pasha
ALTAR GUILD: Charmaine Rohde, Sharon Seible, Deb Shiflet
FLOWERS: An anonymous donor

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