

PASTOR'S COPY

FORGIVENESS

MATTHEW 18.21-35

THE
STORM
PROVES
THE
STRENGTH
OF THE
ANCHOR



**Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 13, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Prelude: "Prelude #16 by J.S. Bach"

Colin Eversley

Welcome, Announcements, Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastor

#Call to Worship

P/ Have you not heard?

C/ Our God is greater, our God is stronger.

P/ The Lord is the everlasting God,

C/ Our God is greater, our God is stronger.

P/ He does not grow tired or weary,

C/ Our God is greater, our God is stronger.

P/ He gives power to the weak,

C/ Our God is greater, our God is stronger.

P/ Our God is higher than any other. It's time to worship our God!

C/ Amen.

#Gathering Song: "Standing in the Need of Prayer"

TFBF-240

Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer;

Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer.

Refrain:

It's me, it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer;

It's me, it's me, O Lord, Standin' in the need of prayer.

Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer;

Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer;

Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer;

Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,

Standin' in the need of prayer. [Refrain]

#Opening Prayer:

See Insert

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.**

First Reading:

Genesis 50:15-21

See Insert

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A/ The Word of the Lord.

C/ Thanks be to God.

Second Reading:

Romans 14:1-12

See Insert

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all

days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A/ The Word of the Lord.

C/ Thanks be to God.

#Gospel Verse “*Thy Word is a Lamp*” TFBF 132

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Music Group by Permission CCLI#1035169

#Gospel: **Matthew 18:21-35** See Insert

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

²¹Peter 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?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P/ The Gospel of the Lord.

C/ Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

Pastor Meheret Caruthers

#Sermon Hymn:

“Blessed Assurance”

TFBF-118

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his spirit, washed in his blood.*

chorus:

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.*

(chorus)

*Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.*

(chorus)

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#Affirmation of Faith - The Apostle’s Creed

pg. 85

C/ 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.

#Prayers of Intercession:

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, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. 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. 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 in 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.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

#Confession of Sin

P/ Let us confess our sins to God.

(Quiet time for personal reflection and confession)

P/ Merciful God,

C/ You sent your Son to be the Bread of Life, but we satisfy our hunger with unfulfilling things. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our sins for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

Amen.

P/ Jesus, says, "I am the bread of life. Whoever believes has eternal life."

Believe the good news of the gospel.

C/ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.

#Holy Communion – Our Assurance of Forgiveness

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: *"Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: *"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

In remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving. Remember us in your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray,

*The Lord's Prayer

pg. 91

C/ 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

#Closing

“On a Hill Far Away”

TFBF-77

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

chorus: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above, to bear it to dark Calvary.

(chorus)

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, a wondrous beauty I see; For t'was on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, to pardon and sanctify me.

(chorus)

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, its shame and reproach gladly bear; Christ will call me someday to my home far away, where his glory forever I'll share.

(chorus)

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#The Blessing:

P/ The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor

and + give you peace.

C/Amen.

#The Sending

A/ Why are we here as a people of God?

C/ We are here to celebrate our faith, grow in faith and in God's Word, and reach out in service to our community.

A/ Go in peace to celebrate, grow and serve!

C/ Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Postlude: *“Sonatina #6, first movement by M. Clementi”* Colin Eversley