

# Sunday, September 4, 2022

## Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who is eager to forgive  
and who loves us beyond our days.

#### **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge  
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy and forgiveness,  
**we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**  
**We have harmed your good creation.**  
**We have failed to do justice,**  
**love kindness,**  
**and walk humbly with you.**  
**Turn us in a new direction.**  
**Show us the path that leads to life.**  
**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved of God:  
your sins are forgiven ✝ and you are made whole.  
God points the way to new life in Christ,  
who meets us on the road.  
Journey now in God's abiding love  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works,  
begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your  
mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today

that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

## Psalm: Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>1</sup> of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats <sup>1</sup> of the scornful!  
<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching <sup>1</sup> day and night.**  
<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves  
that <sup>1</sup> do not wither;  
everything they <sup>1</sup> do shall prosper.  
<sup>4</sup>**It is not so <sup>1</sup> with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind <sup>1</sup> blows away.**  
<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>1</sup> judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council <sup>1</sup> of the righteous.  
<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way <sup>1</sup> of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be destroyed.**

## Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow  
soldier, and to the church in your house:  
<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your  
love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your  
faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I  
have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of  
the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet  
I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and  
now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus,  
whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you,  
but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own  
heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in  
your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without  
your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced.  
<sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have  
him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—  
especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has  
wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am  
writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even  
your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my

heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

## **Gospel: Luke 14:25-33**

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

## **Prayers of Intercession**

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

### *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care (*especially*). God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace,

**Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors (*especially Peter Claver, priest and missionary*). Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **Offering Prayer**

Gracious God,  
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.  
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,  
and make us ready to share with all in need;  
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.  
**Amen.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of the abundant table,  
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal  
with bread for the journey.  
Give us your grace on the road  
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

God, who gives life to all things  
and frees us from despair,  
bless you with truth and peace.  
And may the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.  
**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.  
**Thanks be to God.**