



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
LBW Setting One without Communion
Sunday, September 13, 2020**

**Advent Lutheran Church
3232 Washington Road
Augusta, GA 30907
706-860-0439
www.adventaugusta.org**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Faithful God,

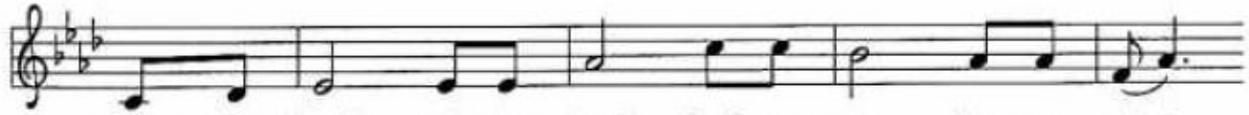
C **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P 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.

C **Amen**

HYMN

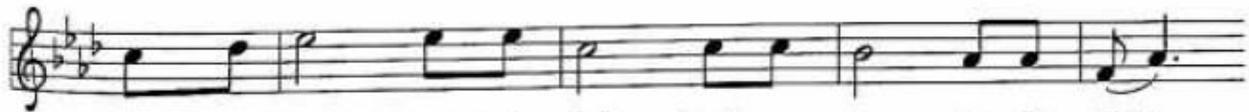
Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

LITANY

P The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C **God will not always accuse, nor keep his anger forever.**

P God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

C **For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is the steadfast love of the Lord toward those who fear him.**

P As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.

C **As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray together,

C **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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 50:15-21

L A reading from Genesis.

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-7, 8-13

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

C ²**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

L ³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

C ⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

L ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

C ⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

L ⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

C ⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

L ⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

C ¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

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

C ¹²**As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

L ¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 14:1-12

L A reading from Romans.

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SPOKEN)

C **Alleluia. We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are forgiven on account of his name. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Eighteenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN

He Leadeth Me

1 He lead - eth me: oh, bless - ed thought! Oh, words with heav' n - ly com - fort fraught!
 2 Some - times mid scenes of deep - est gloom, some - times where E - den's bow - ers bloom,
 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine;
 4 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic - t'ry's won,

What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 by wa - ters calm, o'er trou - bled sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
 e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me, by his own hand he lead - eth me.

His faith - ful fol - l'wer I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our faith together using the Apostles' Creed

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

PEACE

P Peace of the Lord be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The Offering is received and presented at the altar.

OFFERTORY **“Blest Be the Ties that Bind”** **Advent Virtual Choir**

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us Pray, O God, maker of all things.

C **You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L 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 (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our Prayer.

L 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,

C Hear our Prayer.

L 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,

C Hear our Prayer.

L 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,

C Hear our Prayer.

L 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,

C Hear our Prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L 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,

C Hear our Prayer.

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

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

BLESSING

P At the font, God brings us from death to life and calls us to share that abundant life with the world.

C We are freed in Christ to serve!

P Through the word, God accompanies us through our life journeys and calls us to walk with others on their journeys.

C We are freed in Christ to serve!

P At the table, God feeds us with Christ's own body and forms us to be the body of Christ for others.

C We are freed in Christ to serve!

P In the world, God goes ahead of us to places in need and calls us to join the work.

C We are freed in Christ to serve!

The leader invites the assembly to make the sign of the cross on their hands, saying:

C May your hands be a vessel for God's work.

P Go forth today and every day to love and serve God, to love and serve your neighbor, and to be God's hands in the world. Go forth today and every day surrounded and supported by the love of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN

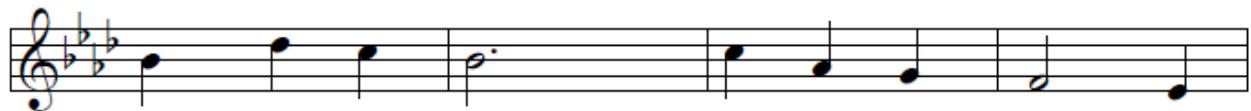
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



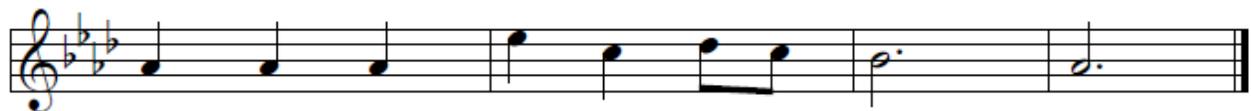
rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson

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DISMISSAL

L Go in Peace. Remember the poor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation is invited to join us for Holy Communion at 11:00am outside of the church in Social Circles. Please remember that anytime we gather together in person to wear your mask. Once you are in your social circle area you can remove your mask.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Andrea Windsor-Peterson

Pastor Jason Peterson

Organist

Melinda East

Lector

Gayle Ricklefs

September Stewardship Snippets

September 13, 2020 (15th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 19)

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If 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. – **Romans 14:26-27**

What is the common good? For Christians, it is expressed in the reign, or way, of Christ. We are accountable to God for how we treat one another; how we reflect the love of Christ through both our words and our actions.

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