

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 13, 2020**



**GOLD HILL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A CONGREGATION OF THE MONTANA SYNOD OF  
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)*

*Welcome to Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
and a special welcome to our guests and those returning after a time away.  
We're gathered as a Christian community to worship the Lord!*

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!  
Please let us know if there are other ways we can be of service.*

***Our Congregation's Mission Statement:  
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE***

***The Guiding Principles of God's People at Gold Hill Lutheran***

*Principle 1: Jesus Christ is our Lord & Savior*

*Principle 2: The Holy Spirit & worship strengthen us*

*Principle 3: We are a welcoming & inviting community in Christ*

*Principle 4: We share the Word with confidence and courage*

*Principle 5: Our faith leads us to serve joyfully*

*Principle 6: We are generous with our gifts*

**[www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT](http://www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT)**

**Check out our GROWING website at [www.GoldHillLutheran.org](http://www.GoldHillLutheran.org)**

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**Today's Worship Leader**

<b>Worship Leader:</b>	<b>Pastor Marlow Carrels</b>
<b>Lector:</b>	<b>Julie Corbin</b>
<b>Music Leader:</b>	<b>Dave Coleman</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Chris Ketchum, Annette Lawson</b>

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Bolded texts are said in unison.

**Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Invocation**

We gather in the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin  
to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**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.**

**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**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his  
authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness  
of all your sins, in the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**Announcements**

*Entrance Hymn: Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me ELW 623*

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
cleansing me from its guilt and pow'r.
- 2 Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;  
simply to thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778

**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.**

**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**

## **Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **Blessing of Lectors**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Bless those who will read to us the scriptures. Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### **First Reading:           Genesis 50:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>Realizing 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?"

<sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'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.

<sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves."

<sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even 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. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm:                       Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13**

[<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul.

**And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

**<sup>3</sup>Who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases.**

<sup>4</sup>Who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

**<sup>5</sup>Who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.**

<sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.

**<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.]**

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**<sup>9</sup>You will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

**<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

**<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

**Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those 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. <sup>4</sup>Who 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.

<sup>5</sup>Some 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. <sup>6</sup>Those 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.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why 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. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

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

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

*As the gospel is announced:*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.”

*As the gospel is concluded:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Marlow Carrels

*Hymn of the Day: Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling ELW 608*

- 1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

“Come home, come home!  
You who are weary come home.”  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

- 2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me?

Refrain:

“Come home, come home!  
You who are weary come home.”  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

- 3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me.

Refrain:

“Come home, come home!  
You who are weary come home.”  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, “O sinner, come home!”

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

**Apostles' Creed**

**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**

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*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

### **The Prayers**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation,  
let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

*Each portion of the prayer concludes:*

**Hear our prayer.**

### **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Offering Prayer**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.

Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Although our road has been stony going, you have given us the power to stand firm in the face of wickedness and to rejoice in triumph over death and the grave. And so, with the multitude from east and west, from north and south, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in the unending hymn:

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts to establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to receive our Redeemer who comes to us in his body and blood.

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.

**Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours,  
almighty Father, now and forever.  
Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

## **Distribution of Communion**

### **Prayer**

Let us pray.

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen**

*Silence for reflection.*

## **Sending**

### **Benediction**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen**

## ***Sending Hymn: "Long Black Train"***

1 There's a long black train  
coming down the line  
feeding off the souls that are lost and crying.  
Tails of sin only evil remains  
watch out brother for that long Black Train.  
Look to the heavens you can look to the skies  
you can find redemption staring back into your eyes.  
There is protection and there is  
peace the same burn in your ticket for that  
Long Black Train.

'Cause there's victory in the lord I say  
victory in the lord.

Cling to the father and his holy name  
and don't go riding on that long Black Train.

2 There's an engineer on that long black train  
making you wonder if your ride is worth the pain.  
He's just a waitin on your heart to say  
let me ride on that long black train.

But you know there's victory in The Lord I say  
victory in The Lord.

Cling to the father and His holy name  
and don't go riding on that long Black Train.

3 Well I can hear the whistle from a mile away  
it sounds so good  
but I must stay away  
that train is a beauty making everybody stare  
but its only destination is the middle of nowhere.

But you know there's victory in The Lord I say  
victory in The Lord.

Cling to the father and His holy name  
and don't go riding on that long Black Train.

I said cling to the father and His holy name  
and don't go ridin on that black train  
yes watch out brother for that long black train  
the devil's a ridin' that long black train.

Songwriters: Josh Turner

Long Black Train lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Ole Media Management Lp

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**