



Worship Folder for September 27, 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

www.christcambridge.com

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

Information to help you stay connected and get involved!

CHURCH INFORMATION

Pastor	Sam Biebert	Church Office	763.689.5333
Contact Information	ChristCambridgePastor@gmail.com 701.471.0341 (cell)	Webpage	www.christcambridge.com

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | SEPTEMBER 28 — OCTOBER 4

SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship
WEDNESDAY	6:30pm	Zoom Bible Class (Judges)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ShopWithScrip® Our church and preschool ministry has signed up for the Scrip program. This is a great way to spend money as you normally would on gas, groceries and entertainment while also having a percentage of that money go to our work in Jesus name here at Christ. More information on this opportunity will be presented.

Canvassing Join us **TODAY** after church!

Plan to Attend! Our upcoming **Info Meeting** has been scheduled for **Sunday, October 18** and **Voter's Meeting** for **October 25**. Get involved and be informed!

Sunday School Packets are available to pick up for your children. Please make sure to grab one. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you for working with us to keep this very important aspect of growing in faith going.

Bible Class Check it out! A **zoom link** will be sent out for class which will take place on **Wednesday at 6:30**. We are looking at the book of Judges and the historical setting of it as well as the present-day application of it.

Craft & Baking Day In preparation on for our Fall Bazaar, the Women of Christ are invited to meet at church on **Saturday, October 10** at 9:00am to assemble gift items to be sold. Masks will be utilized, and social distancing will be practiced. Can you donate a few **INGREDIENTS** for our Quart Jar recipes? There is a **sign-up sheet** on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Fall Bazaar The Women of Christ are hosting the their Fall Bazaar on **Sunday, October 11** and **October 18**. We welcome donations of items to be sold. Plan to purchase baked goods, crafts, and gift items to support our missions.

October Newsletter Check your inboxes! There are also extra copies on the entryway table.



“Here am I. Send me!”
Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: Harlan, Mitch, Josh **Counters:** Brian K., Paul
Cleaners: Andrew & Anne M., Mary P.

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn – “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” (Christian Worship #493)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)
In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,
We lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,
We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession.

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

How hard it is to forgive like God! We may forgive someone who hurts us, but we never forget. We harbor that hurt deep inside of us for years—never understanding that we are locking ourselves in the prison of the past. Joseph’s brothers feared that they would finally have to pay for what they did to Joseph. His father was gone; he was still in charge in Egypt; and the brothers thought that they were going to face Joseph’s vengeance. As repentant sinners, we often act like the brothers and wait for God to get even with us for our past sins. Shame on us! We are making God as shallow as we are! In God’s eyes our sins are forgiven, forgotten, forever. Joseph wept at their words as he remembered the sordid history and all the emotions that came with it. He wept, but he was free from the prison of the past; he had forgiven his brothers their terrible deeds. Through his tears, Joseph never wavered, but he calmed his brothers’ fears, forgave them like God forgives, and set them free from their prison of the past.

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him.”¹⁶ They sent the following message to Joseph: “Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷ ‘You are to tell Joseph, “Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him.¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, “See now, we are your servants.”¹⁹ Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones.” He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

Christ set us free from the burdens of the Law; in the Gospel we have the freedom of sons. With freedom, though, comes responsibility. Our Christian freedom must be normed by love for our neighbor. I am certainly free to eat or drink, but my eating and drinking doesn’t happen in a vacuum. My Christian freedom is not freedom to enslave a weaker brother’s conscience. We are bound to our brothers because we both belong to Christ. Therefore let us make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification (v.19). Restricting my freedom out of love for my brother is service to Christ that pleases God and brings righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Second Lesson: Romans 14:5-9

⁵ One person values one day above another. Another person values every day the same. Let each person be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The person who honors a certain day does this for the Lord, and the person who eats does this for the Lord, because he gives thanks to God. And the person who does not eat does this for the Lord and gives thanks to God.⁷ In fact, not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself. ⁸ Indeed, if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this reason he died, rose, and lived, to be Lord of both the dead and the living.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia. (Romans 15:4)

"The human animal is not...good at forgiveness. Forgiveness is not some innate, natural human emotion. It is natural for the human animal to defend itself, to snarl and crouch into a defensive position when attacked, to howl when wronged, to bite back when bitten. Forgiveness is not natural." (Willimon) Forgiveness must be learned, and Peter thought he had figured it out. From the elders of the Jews Peter had heard: "If a man transgresses one time, forgive him. If a man transgresses two times, forgive him. If a man transgresses three times, forgive him. If a man transgresses four times, do not forgive him." Three times, the elders said, was the limit of forgiveness for a good Jew. Peter, however, was willing to go much further; not three times, but seven times, Peter thought with a smile. Until Jesus said, "Not seven times, Peter, seventy times seven— what the elders say doesn't matter. I say to you that your forgiveness should have no limit, but be like God's." Jesus' parable contrasts the forgiveness of God and our own unforgiving nature. The servant's debt— by any measure of calculation—was impossibly high (perhaps 150,000 years' wages). Who could have accrued debt such as this? Who could ever hope to repay? What an arresting picture of our debt of sin before God! The greatness of the debt magnifies the compassion of the king who wipes the debt away. Who can comprehend the forgiveness of God? Certainly not unmerciful servants like us, who refuse to forgive the small debts owed to us, and instead, inflict on our fellow servants the punishments that God should rightly have given us. Have mercy on us, Lord, and teach us to forgive like you.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?"²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times."²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.²⁴ When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him.²⁵ Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.²⁶ "Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, 'Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!'"²⁷ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'"²⁹ "So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!'"³⁰ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.³¹ "When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place."³² "Then his master called him in and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to.'³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?"³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.³⁵ "This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart."

Sermon on Matthew 18:21-35

Theme: “God’s Forgiveness

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

Theme: “God’s Forgiveness”

9/27/2020

What is your limit? What is your breaking point on forgiveness? I would hope we all know the answer it is supposed to be but I would also hope we are honest enough with ourselves to look at our weakness in forgiving others, especially when they have wronged us repeatedly.

But at the same time, that is a hard question isn't it? I don't know how many times I have forgiven my daughter for not listening when I ask her to do something like picking up her toys or being quiet or eating her meal. It is probably more often than not she does something other than what I am asking or forgets about what she was asked to do about three seconds after I have asked her. But that is different right? It is my daughter and personally, she can sometimes even disobey in a way that I even find myself smiling about or laughing about. It is hard to stay mad and forgiveness comes easy.

But then there is the person that just kinda rubs me the wrong way. The person for whom it takes physical and mental exertion to befriend, let alone to forgive. The person who I can maybe find it in my heart to forgive from the heart once or twice but any more than that and I can quickly justify all sorts of reasons not to forgive them after small things or after just a couple instances of doing what I deem to be the wrong thing. For that kind of person, it is hard not to stay mad and it is easy to cut forgiveness down considerably.

So, what is your limit? What is your breaking point on forgiveness? Do you have those people you love to forgive, those people whose wrongs it is easy to look past even though when we are being honest there is still no shortage of sin they commit? Do you have those people you love to pat yourself on the back over, well I forgave them when I probably shouldn't have, I gave them more chances than they deserved and well now, now what they deserve is my ugly side or I am not going to even give them the time of day. Forgiveness is a tricky thing isn't it?

But that is why we are continuing our series on Divine Distancing today. As we do so, we are dedicating our time this morning to focusing on God's forgiveness and guess what, he has far more reasons than you could ever imagine not to forgive you and not to forgive me. And yet here again, we see another way God desires to draw us close to himself. In addition to that though, we also see another way God desires to show himself through you and me. As we ponder and look at those two facts, let's listen to our lesson from Matthew 18 once more to gain some insight from God on this topic:

²¹ Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along

with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt. ²⁶ “Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹ “So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed. ³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place. ³² “Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed. ³⁵ “This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

Jesus’ parable comes in response to the good work Peter thought he was doing. He was striving to go above and beyond the social norm of three times. That was considered the limit for a good Jew. It really is not any different for you and me though is it. We have similar thoughts in our society. The common thought and phrase that goes along with it is similar to this: “Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.” One could make the argument we are even less forgiving of a society.

But here, Peter is suggesting seven times! What love he is suggesting, right? For fallen sinner, yes, it is honestly quite the heart he is displaying. But for Jesus, it falls far short. This, truth, is what Jesus goes on to explain in our lesson today. He is showing the difference between imitating Christ in our forgiveness, namely, forgiving when it makes no sense to forgive and forgiveness that makes logical sense for us, that is forgiving until it is no longer easy or convenient.

But with this forgiveness we also need to recognize something very important. Look at what the Master was about to do! He was about to punish the servant for his debt. He was going to be sold, along with his wife, children and all he owned. While that still would not have paid the outstanding debt, it was the closest thing to justice the Master could accomplish.

So what brought about the change of heart for the Master? Simply put, it was because the servant came face to face with the magnitude of his debt and he humbled himself and asked the Master not to act in justice but in patience. He knew he deserved to pay the debt. He didn’t even ask to be freed from it but he owned it completely. He knew his life was in the hands of his Master.

Is this how you view your relationship with God? Do you spend time in God’s Word listening to him tell you just how much debt you owe him? Because that is not easy. What is easy is to be easy on ourselves. What is easy is to look around and think just how wrong everyone else is. What is easy is to grab another and point out their debts to us rather than to see we have no right to demand any sort of anything because the entirety of our life should already be held by God in ransom for our sins.

This thought is what should hopefully lead us back to the question we started out with. It was the wrong question wasn’t it. Instead of asking ourselves “What is our limit?” we should have been asking ourselves what is God’s? That is the question that leaves us amazed. That is the question which causes our heads to spin as we come face to face with blinding love. God gave up a relationship closer than a husband and wife, he gave up a compassion deeper than what a parent has for a child. He gave up the Son of God. He gave up a relationship that always was, a relationship forged in the depths of eternity, a relationship we cannot even

begin to grasp for the sake of your debt being forgiven. He gave up that relationship so he might have one with you. So you would come face to face with a compassionate forgiveness that leaves us reeling in awe.

He did this not only to draw you closer to himself but also so that we might strive to offer real forgiveness from the depths of our hearts for others. This sort of forgiveness is what God demands. Not because he is mean or oppressive but because it is what he gave to you and me first. It is the way he gives to us to show and proclaim Christ to each other. It is the way that we are able to grow in better understanding Christ love for us as we struggle over forgiveness we extend to our repentant brothers and sisters in faith. It is the way that Christ cuts the distance between us and him and draws us tighter and tighter to himself. God help us to cherish the forgiveness won for us, to love falling on our knees in repentance to God and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and to relish the opportunities we have to show Christ in how we forgive as he has. Amen

Offering: (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website (www.christcambridge.com) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

Prayer:

We praise you, O God, for the faithfulness and mercy you show to us day after day. You do not treat us as our sins deserve. You do not keep a daily tally of our failings and then hold us hostage to them. You do not put a limit on the number of times you will forgive us for failing to love you and others as you have loved us. You simply declare that you have removed our guilt through the sacrifice of your Son Jesus and pronounce us to be your sons and daughters through faith in him.

Jesus, you asked the Father to forgive those who sinned against you. Fill us with your Spirit so that we may reflect that same attitude toward those who sin against us. It refreshes and revives us to know that you have chosen to set aside the judgment you could rightly bring on us. Give us also the ability to forgive ourselves as you have forgiven us. Free us from the shackles of our past and enable us to bring to others the blessing you have brought to us.

O Holy Spirit, you have brought us together to be one in Christ. Through that knowledge equip us to carry on in unity of mind and spirit the ministry to which you have called us. Help us to always remember that Jesus has received each of those around us just as he has received us.

Private Petitions

You have assured us, heavenly Father, that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective. It is in that promise that we come to you and also pray as your Son has taught us:

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.

Children's Message

BLESSING:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: "O Master of the Loving Heart" (Christian Worship #491)