



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Lectionary 24

University Lutheran Church  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
September 13, 2020

## PRELUDE

“Sand Dunes” – Martha Mier (b. 1936)

*Kerstin Broolsma and Bruce Broolsma, keyboard*

## THE GATHERING

### BELL AND WELCOME

### LITANY FOR CREATION

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

O God, our creator, whose good earth is entrusted to our care and delight and tenderness, we pray:

For all who are in captivity to debt, whose lives are cramped by fear from which there is no turning except through abundant harvest.

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

For all who depend on the earth for their daily food and fuel, whose forests are destroyed for the profits of a few.

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

For all who labor in poverty; who are oppressed by unjust laws, policies, and practices; who are banned for speaking the truth; who long for a harvest of justice.

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

For all who in captivity to greed and waste and boredom, whose harvest joy is choked with things they do not need.

**May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.**

Turn us, O God,

**Turn us again from our captivity, restore our vision, that our mouth may be filled with laughter and our tongue with singing.**

Dear siblings, in Christ Jesus all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through this One, God was pleased to reconcile to God's self all things, whether on earth or in heaven. By the cross of Christ, when one corner of creation can't breathe, all wither; the flourishing of one is in the flourishing of the whole. Let us, therefore, know ourselves to be reconciled – to God, to one another, to the Earth and all that fills it. And let us sing a song of thanksgiving!

**Amen**

# Heaven Is Singing for Joy

## *El cielo canta alegría*



*El cie - lo can - ta\_a - le - grí - a, ¡a - le - lu - ya!,*  
 1 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,  
 2 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,  
 3 Heav - en is sing - ing for joy, al - le - lu - ia,



*por - que en tu vi - da y la mí - a bri - lla la glo - ria de Dios.*  
 for in your life and mine is shin - ing the glo - ry of God.  
 for your life and mine u - nite in the love of our God.  
 for your life and mine will al - ways bear wit - ness to God.

*Refrain / Estribillo*



*¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le -*  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



*lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!*  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

2 *El cielo canta alegría, ¡aleluya!,  
 porque a tu vida y la mía  
 las une el amor de Dios. Estribillo*

3 *El cielo canta alegría, ¡aleluya!,  
 porque tu vida y la mía  
 proclamarán al Señor. Estribillo*

Text: Pablo Sosa, b. 1933  
 Music: ALEGRÍA, Pablo Sosa  
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## 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.**

## THE WORD

### PSALM

Psalm 103:8-13

*All may sing the response and chant the verses.*

### Response

Bruce Brolsma

For as the hea-vens are high a - bove the earth, so  
great is your stead - fast love for those who fear you.

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

<sup>9</sup>you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

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

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high a- | bove 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 transgres- | sions from us.

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

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: South African; arr. Gobingca Mxadana  
Arr. © Gobingca Mxadana

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## GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth 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 dominion 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*Pastor Kathleen Reed*

## Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



- 1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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## APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.**

**Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died and was buried.**

**Who descended to the dead and on the third day rose again.**

**Who ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**Who 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 THE PEOPLE

Individuals will be invited to offer prayers aloud, so please feel free to unmute yourself at this time. Prayers may also be typed in the chat box to be read by the presider.

Let us pray for the life of the world, the intentions of all the faithful, and for any in sorrow or need.

*Each prayer petition may be concluded with one of these (or similar) responses:*

God in your mercy,    or    Bless we the Lord!  
**Hear our prayer.**                      **Thanks be to God!**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.    **And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY

Allemande from *Partita in G Major*, HWV 450  
– George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759)  
*Xiaolu Chen, keyboard*

*UniLu is fully committed to its mission and programming even as we learn to deliver those in different ways. Many people in our community already give on-line – if you have not signed up for that, now might be a good time. Visit [www.unilu.org/giving](http://www.unilu.org/giving) if you would like to set up electronic funds transfer or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to 66 Winthrop Street, Cambridge, MA, 02138; there may be a slight delay in processing donations received by mail. We understand that some may also be experiencing unusual financial hardship and may need to delay or reduce their giving for the time being. If you need help in setting up or changing an electronic giving plan, please [email treasurer@unilu.org](mailto:email_treasurer@unilu.org).*

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

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 God thanks and praise.**

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,  
for calling creation into being,  
declaring forgiveness from the cross,  
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.  
We praise you, O God, for your Word:  
**we praise you, O God, for your Word.**

*Gen. 1:3*  
*Luke 23:34*  
*John 3:5*

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,  
a mirror reflecting our selves,  
a shield providing us refuge,  
a fire burning for justice and truth.  
Your word is sweeter than honey:  
it nourishes our bodies like milk,  
it sustains your people like bread.  
We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.  
We bless you, O God, for your Word:  
**we bless you, O God, for your Word.**

*Ps. 119:105*  
*James 1:23*  
*Prov. 30:5*  
*Jer. 23:29*  
*Ps. 119:103*  
*1 Pet. 2:2*  
*Matt. 14:20*  
*Ps. 19:10*

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,  
and to all the cries of the needy.  
Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,  
that heeding your voice of beauty and power  
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

*Eph. 2:19-20*  
*James 5:4*  
*John 20:22*  
*Ps. 29:9*  
*Rom. 16:25-26*

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath –  
we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word:  
**we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.**

Amen.  
**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as "Abba," Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.*

Friends, it gladdens the heart of Jesus when we pray,

**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,**

**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## THE SENDING

### BLESSING

Mothering God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

ELW 359 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

## Where Charity and Love Prevail

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
 Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842  
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## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

DETROIT ["Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"]  
 (*Sacred Harp* Tune)  
 – Setting by Wilbur Held (1914 – 2015)



## SERVING TODAY:

Homilist: Kathleen Reed; Presider: Gracious Moyo; Response Reader: Stephen Kirkpatrick; Intercessor: Susan Worst; Tech Vergers: Jonathan Mott and Jayms Battaglia; Musicians: Kerstin Brolsma, Bruce Brolsma, Imogene Stulken, and Xiaolu Chen.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE are asked for:**

Floyd Arntz – UniLu member  
Ellen and Bob Bartlett – sister and brother-in-law of Gail Bucher  
David Beyer – UniLu member  
Gail Bowles – mother of Anita Bowles  
Joe Brown – former police officer at the University of Massachusetts Lowell  
Alice Conway – sister of Karin Kutrieb  
Deidra Edison – sister of Audra Franley  
Hal Franley – father of Audra Franley  
George Gordon – UniLu member  
William Greenbaum – husband of Anne Deneen  
Hazel Hanson – mother of Kathy Hanson  
Paul Hanson – UniLu member  
Aimee Hein – UniLu member  
Gisela Krause – UniLu member  
Amy Kremer, Taylor McNeil, and Emily Kremer-McNeil – UniLu members  
Andrew Lake – friend of the Reed family  
Tony Lee – friend of Susan Worst and Larry Cohen  
Jonathan Macgowan – husband of Margrit Betke  
Duncan McCoy Norton – son of Megan McCoy  
Martin Moyo – cousin of Gracious Moyo  
Kent Peterman – UniLu alum  
Birgitta Ralston – UniLu member  
Johanna Ralston Lamb – UniLu member  
Harry Rothmann – UniLu member  
Jeanette Searson – sister of Imogene Stulken  
Atieno Simmons – daughter of Denise Simmons, former Cambridge mayor  
Judy Steele – sister of Phyllis Steele  
Phyllis Steele – UniLu member  
Marilyn Stulken – sister of Imogene Stulken  
Betty Wiinikainen – mother of Faith Bloomquist

Pastor Daniel Spigelmyer, Jr, and the congregation of Emanuel, Fitchburg, that lost their organ to a fire that also caused damage to the church interior.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we remember the peoples of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

*Prayers continued on next page.*

## PRAYERS CONT'D

For healthcare professionals, public transportation employees, restaurant and grocery store workers, farmworkers, farmers, delivery service workers, custodians, sanitation workers, postal carriers, first responders, National Guard members, and other essential employees.

We pray for the well-being and eventual freedom of our sanctuary guests, Ana, Erika, and Brianna.

We pray for all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges, who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been separated from their families.

*Cards, emails, and/or a call are welcomed by folks listed on the prayer list. The members' area of the UniLu website lists all members' phone, email, and snail mail addresses. Please include these members, relatives, neighbors, and friends in your prayers today and during the week ahead. If you would like to add a name to this list, please email the church office at <office@unilu.org> or submit them to the chat at the beginning of the service.*

*The following lectionary texts were omitted from today's service:*

### 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 God is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way Joseph reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

## 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.

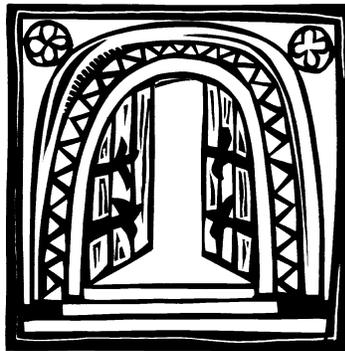
<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while 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.



*Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston – and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).*

## Serving the Community:

Kathleen Reed, *Pastor*

Jayms Battaglia, *Campus and Community Coordinator*

Gracious Moyo, *Grant Recipient*

Audra Franley, *Bread and Belonging Worship Leader*

Kris McQuage-Loukas, *Communications Coordinator*

Jonathan Mott, *Music Director – Choir*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director – Organ*

Xiaolu Chen, *Bread and Belonging Accompanist*

Kerstin Brolsma, *Cantor*

Thomas LaGrange, *Sexton*

Lindsay Sanneman, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

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