



Salem Lutheran Church  
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 13, 2020 - 8:30 a.m.

INTRODUCTION

*In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

GATHERING

BELLS  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

*Everywhere I Go*

Everywhere I go on this road, high and low,  
Where I go, I go with you.  
So I won't be afraid, this my hope, come what may,  
Where I go, I go with you.  
Where I go, I go with you.

There's a Spirit I cannot contain.  
There's a Spirit I cannot contain.  
The same power that raised Jesus up from the grave,  
The same Spirit I cannot contain.

Everywhere I go on this road, high and low,  
Where I go, I go with you.  
So I won't be afraid, this my hope, come what may,  
Where I go, I go with you.

Ohh—oh, oh, ohh-oh-0h,  
where I go, I go with you.  
Ohh—oh, oh, ohh-oh-0h,  
where I go, I go with you.

Breath upon these bones,



Your fire in my soul.  
Your kingdom is my home,  
And I don't walk alone.

Everywhere I go on this road, high and low,  
Where I go, I go with you.  
So I won't be afraid, this my hope, come what may,  
Where I go, I go with you.

Everywhere I go on this road, high and low,  
Where I go, I go with you.  
So I won't be afraid, this my hope, come what may,  
Where I go, I go with you.  
Where I go, I go with you.  
Where I go, I go with you.

Today is week one of our VBS program – Rocky Railway where we learn how Jesus Power Pulls Us Through. We need to remember when life seems a bit rocky and things get hard – Jesus power pulls us through. Today's bible story is about a man of God named Ananias. He was asked to care for another man of God named Saul who was being a bit of a bully. But Saul met Jesus and convinced him to stop being a bully and when God asked Ananias to care for Saul he was afraid, because he knew Saul was a bully. But things had a way of working out and Jesus got them back on track. And why is that? **Jesus' Power pulls us through.** *(Repeat)*

**BIBLE STORY:** Ananias helps Saul (Acts 9:1-19)

All this time Saul was breathing down the necks of the Master's disciples, out for the kill. He went to the Chief Priest and got arrest warrants to take to the meeting places in Damascus so that if he found anyone there belonging to the Way, whether men or women, he could arrest them and bring them to Jerusalem. He set off.

When he got to the outskirts of Damascus, he was suddenly dazed by a blinding flash of light. As he fell to the ground, he heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me?" He said, "Who are you, Master?" "I am Jesus, the One you're hunting down. I want you to get up and enter the city. In the city you'll be told what to do next." His companions stood there dumbstruck - they could

hear the sound, but couldn't see anyone - while Saul, picking himself up off the ground, found himself stone blind. They had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus. He continued blind for three days. He ate nothing, drank nothing.

There was a disciple in Damascus by the name of Ananias. The Master spoke to him in a vision: "Ananias." "Yes, Master?" he answered. "Get up and go over to Straight Avenue. Ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus. His name is Saul. He's there praying. He has just had a dream in which he saw a man named Ananias enter the house and lay hands on him so he could see again." Ananias protested, "Master, you can't be serious. Everybody's talking about this man and the terrible things he's been doing, his reign of terror against your people in Jerusalem! And now he's shown up here with papers from the Chief Priest that give him license to do the same to us." But the Master said, "Don't argue. Go! I have picked him as my personal representative to Gentiles and kings and Jews. And now I'm about to show him what he's in for - the hard suffering that goes with this job."

So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, "Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." No sooner were the words out of his mouth than something like scales fell from Saul's eyes - he could see again! He got to his feet, was baptized, and sat down with them to a hearty meal.

What will learn today on the Rocky Railway is how **Jesus's power helps us to hard things.** (*Repeat*) Today we're going to meet our first Bible Buddy – Ramsey – who is going to help us learn our first bible memory verse: **“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength”** (Philippians 4:13)

**BIBLE MEMORY BUDDY** Let's watch our video and meet – RAMSEY

**VBS SENDING SONG** *Your Power Will Pull Us Through*

**YOUR POWER WILL PULL US THROUGH**

We trust, we trust, we trust in you Jesus.  
You're all, you're all, you're all that we need.

Your power will pull us through.

We're trusting in you!

We're trusting in you!

You give us hope and life that's forever.

You make us bold, And we stand together.

Your power will pull us through.

We're trusting in you!

We're trusting in you!

We're off on this journey; there's no looking back.

With Jesus to lead us, we're on the right track.

Ohh, ohh.

Wide open spaces for wide open eyes.

We're looking ahead for the next big surprise.

Ohh, ohh.

We trust, we trust, we trust in you Jesus.

You're all, you're all, you're all that we need.

Your power will pull us through.

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Your power will pull us through.

We're trusting in you!

We're trusting in you!  
We're trusting in you! We're trusting in you! We're trusting in you!

**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.**

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**WORD**

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**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.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

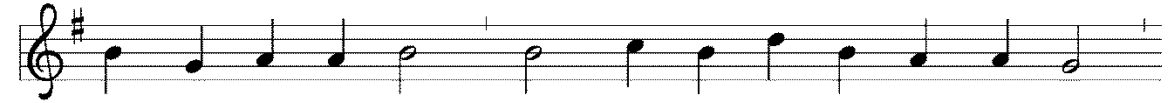
**SCRIPTURE SONG**

**Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

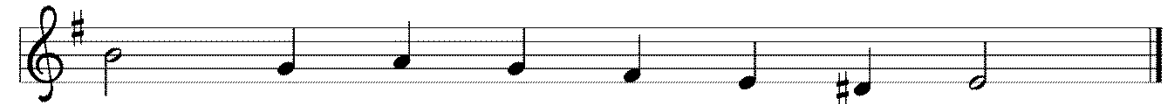
ELW #517



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

**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.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p.205



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON

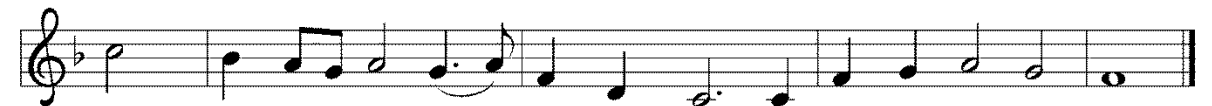
#### SERMON HYMN

#### *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW #359



- 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.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostle's Creed*

ELW p.105

**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, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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 (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.**

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## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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### OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

Almighty God, grant that your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## 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.

## BLESSING

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.  
Amen.

## SENDING SONG

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

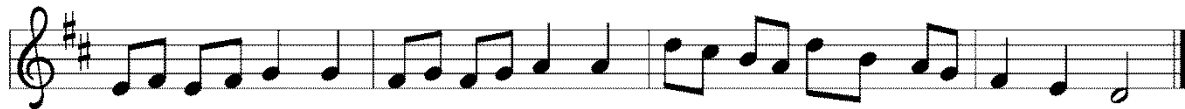
ELW #545



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

## Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

<b>Preaching:</b> Pastor Joel Guttormson <b>Organist:</b> Ruth Sheldon	<b>Altar Guild for August:</b> Sharon Casey Jean Rondeau
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The radio broadcast this morning is given in memory of loved ones from Marilyn Pederson & family.

The Live Streaming this morning is sponsored by Norma Thompson in memory of Roger Thompson and Nina Trebil whose birthdays were September 10th.

## Salem Contact Information:

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