

No sermons this week. I promise. As the detective said, “Just the facts, ma’am, just the facts.” (Extra points, what TV show, the name of the character, and the name of the actors who played the detectives.) No cheating looking it up on Google or something.

If you are one who notices, this week’s lesson from Romans is indeed the same as last week. Check out the verses before and after as well as the verses that we will be sharing on Sunday. It is really loaded with lots of goodies.

By Sunday, we will be more than halfway through September and only about a month before we will change location. The announcements are in the bulletin. Please mark your calendars so that you are in the right place in October. Next Sunday is also the first Sunday of Autumn. We should be noticing a change in the temperatures in the coming weeks. Stay comfortable and stay safe.

Some of you may remember Jerri Morton from when she was our Seminary Student several years ago. She got married recently. Her last name is now DeWitt. You can see a picture of her and her new husband on Facebook.

This week’s thought is contributed by Susie Larson, one of my friends. I enjoy her posts. This caused me to think and I hope it will do the same for you.

Morning Blessing: May you recapture the wonder and the awe of this season. YOU are someone Jesus loves, profoundly so. You are someone He sings over, delights in, and plans for. May you marvel that He came to earth to save you, restore you, and use you in ways that are beyond what you’ve ever imagined. God intends to restore the years the enemy



has stolen. He intends to show Himself strong right in the midst of your current battle. Things won’t always be this hard. One day, He’ll make all things new! Until then, take time to notice Him in the small sacred spaces of life. He’s there. He invites you. May a heaven-breathed wonder fill your lungs today. [#SusieLarsonBlessings](#)

Mark 7:37 NLT ~ They were completely amazed and said again and again, “Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak.”

Sunday Preview

September 17, 2023

We sin against one another, and the challenge of Jesus is that we forgive seventy-seven times to reveal 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. Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Genesis 50: 15-21

Please be seated.

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.

PSALM: Psalm 103: 1-13

Read responsively.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's Holy name.
²**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**
³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;
⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**
⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.
⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**
⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the Heavens are high above the Earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 13: 8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 21-35

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "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. ²³For 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."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the Church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Silence for reflection.

A We pray for the Church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy especially Michael, Aurora, and Niki and those we hold in our hearts. .
Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your Church and World especially the Apostle Matthew
Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

Suggestions

**World Hunger, World Health, World Peace
Child Welfare in Underdeveloped Countries
Mass shootings and killings in U. S. cities and schools
Preservation of Environment
U. S. Economy
Deaths of law officers
Ukraine Conflict
Acceptance of differences**

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C Amen.



CONTACT THE PASTOR

Communications requesting pastoral care should be made directly to
Pastor Larry Baker, (614) 257-8560.

COMING EVENTS AT ZION

SUNDAY DISCUSSIONS BEFORE CHURCH We have
Sunday morning Bible discussions every Sunday before Church. We meet at



9:45 each week. We are getting close to the end of Colossians. If you want input in what we might discuss next come and throw in your 2 cents worth. Please come and bring your Bible and your favorite morning beverage with you.

OCTOBER 22nd Next week we will not have church service in the Community Center.

This will be the day that we will meet at the Senior Center because of the Community Fall Festival. Located next to the Certified Station and across from Circle K.



OCTOBER 29th we will be serving breakfast at First English. We will celebrate Reformation Sunday with the First English congregation. It is a wonderful experience to worship in this historic building with this wonderful group of people who love the Lord.

NOVEMBER 5th is All Saints' Sunday. We will remember all of our members who have joined God's table.

It is also the Sunday we **Fall Back** and leave Daylight Savings Time behind for another year. I would also remind you that **November 7th** is Election Day. We are electing a Mayor and other village and county officials. I am sure there will be some issues from the state or local as well.

VILLAGE EVENTS

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9:00-10:00 AM Here at the Community Center they are instructor-led Workouts. Want some exercise this is where to find it.

OCTOBER 21st as I have mentioned is the **VILLAGE FALL FESTIVAL**. It is a fun time for everyone. There is something for everyone. They have a haunted Center for everyone to visit, hayrides, roasting marshmallows, you name it they will have it. However it displaces us on Sunday but we make the Senior Center work.

PRAYERS



Aurora is still in chemo treatments and has about 2 weeks left to go. Please continue to keep her and her parents and Grandma in your prayers. (Possibly the best way to reach Aurora and her family is through Margret. I don't think her address has changed, 8461 Silverbell Ave., Galloway, 43119.)

Please keep these people in your prayers as well: Michael Koch; Wesley and JoAnn Porter; Nicole Biler Robinette; Mike and Donna Toy, and all of those who are suffering from diseases or other health issues and their families. Please remember all of our shut-ins and sick, especially Arlene Castor.

The address for Michael and the Koch family is 224 West Romany Loop, Beverly Hills, FL 34465. Michael has moved to *The Grove*, a facility that is much closer to his home. You can get updates from Linda at www.caringbridge.org/visit/michaelkoch2?fbclid Keep all of the Koch's in your prayers.

(If you wish to sign up for food on the Altar or service assistant for a particular Sunday and are not going to be here to do so, let me know via email, text, or messenger, and I will sign you up for that Sunday.)

*Hope to see you soon.
God bless you all this week.*



*Go my children,
with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping,
I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river,
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children with my blessing,
you are my own.*