

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 13, 2020
10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>
Zoom Coffee Hour: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

September 13, 2020

In-Person Worship TONIGHT: Join us for in-person worship services every other **Sunday at 5:00 PM**. Please bring your own chairs—spots will be marked on the front lawn. Masks must be worn and social distance must be observed. Restricted bathroom usage. At-risk individuals or anyone feeling unwell should not attend. Please use discretion. **Please RSVP [here](#).**

Season of Creation: The season, September 1– October 4, is a time to join with the global Christian community in renewing, repairing, and restoring commitments to God, to one another, and to all creation. [Weekly Devotions](#) have been prepared by the Presiding Bishops of our Lutheran/Anglican Full-Communion.

Caring for Creation Worship Service: On **September 20** we will join with other ELCA congregations in a creation-focused worship service prepared by [Lutherans Restoring Creation](#).

Hunger in the Time of COVID-19: [Rick Steves](#), guidebook author and travel TV host and Presiding Bishop [Elizabeth A. Eaton](#) invite you to a virtual benefit for ELCA World Hunger. This Zoom virtual event will take place on **September 24 at 8:00 PM**. [Register now](#).

Cross Roads Women's Retreat: Join other women on Zoom for a day of conversation, reflection, prayer, and laughter together at the [Cross Roads Women's Retreat](#)! There are four dates from which to choose: **September 26, 27, October 10, or 11**. The program will run from **10:00 AM to 4:00 PM**, with a two-hour break for lunch and individual reflection time.

St. John's Anti-Racism Committee Book Club Dialogue: *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. The discussion will take place via ZOOM on **Tuesdays, September 29, October 6, and 13 at 5:00 PM**. Please RSVP if you plan to join us at staff@stjohnssummit.org.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Please give to the emergency fund sponsored by the Summit Interfaith Council to help Summit immigrant neighbors affected by COVID-19. Make your tax-deductible donation to the Relief Fund [here](#), by check or PayPal. Checks should be made out to and mailed to Beacon UU Congregation in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit, NJ 07901.

The ELCA Church Council has unanimously adopted a new social message. Read [here](#).

Calling all musicians: Join us in our virtual music-making this fall! Email Donna Garzinsky (dgarzinsky@stjohnssummit.org) to find out how you can get involved.

Cross Roads Tea: Our benefit Tea Party for Cross Roads Camp is going virtual! We will be meeting over Zoom on **October 17 at 4 PM**. Upon RSVP we will deliver you a personal tea party box. Join us for a fun afternoon to support our church camp. Sign up [here](#) to reserve a spot.

Zoom Children's Time is each **Sunday at 9:30 AM**. Join: <https://zoom.us/j/374109491>.

Evening Prayer: **Wednesdays at 7:00 PM** on both our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Hymns of Faith: **Wednesdays at 10:30 AM**. Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/97268221619>.

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

Prayer Before Worship

God, our source and our salvation, in love you made us and by love you have redeemed us. Make your love for us bear fruit in our forgiveness of others, that in this life we may know your all-embracing compassion and in the world to come receive the everlasting joy of fellowship you share with your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2

Gathering

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

PRELUDE Setting of *St. Denio*

By Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

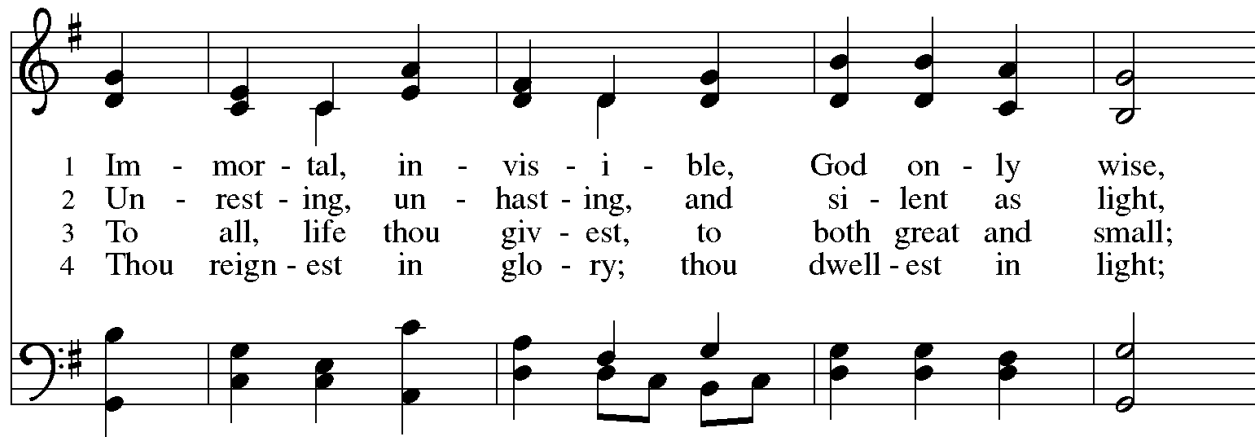
God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

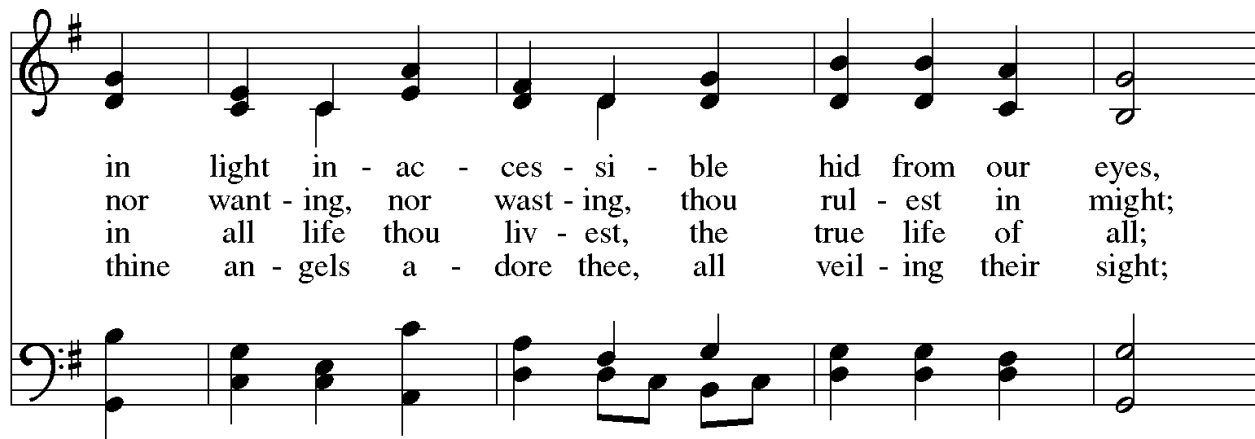
Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

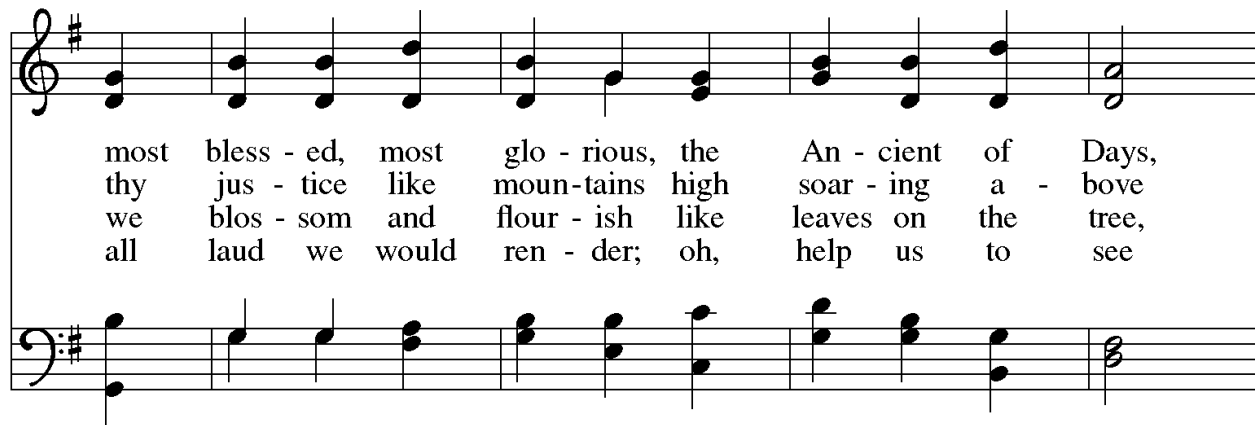
GATHERING HYMN 834 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



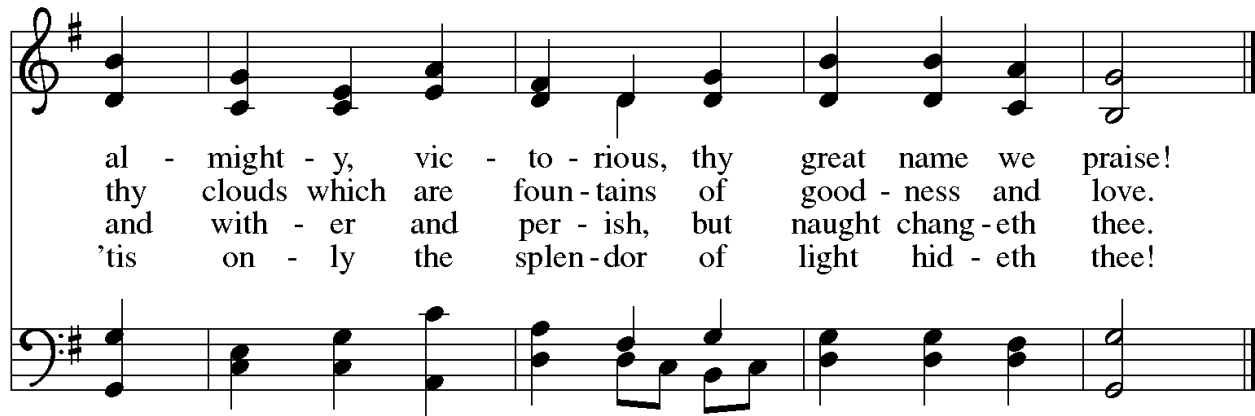
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



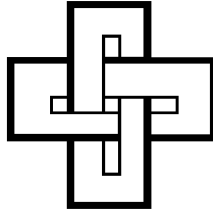
in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

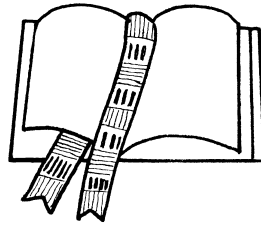


APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Deacon Linda Walker

FIRST READING Genesis 50:15–21

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.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:1-4, 11-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is with -
in me, bless his ho - ly name.

Spoken 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;**

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. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 14:7-12

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

¹⁰Why 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. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, Lord, to whom shall we go?—

You have the words of e-ter-nal life: Al-le-lu-ia!—

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21–35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹Peter 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?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³”For 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.”

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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

Lord in your mercy, . . . **Hear our prayer. *Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.***

LORD'S PRAYER

And now let us pray as our Savior taught us:

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.

PEACE

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

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving. You may also contact the church office for more options.

OFFERING MUSIC Setting of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" By Richard Walters
(b. 1956)

Johna Miller, soprano

Come, thou fount of ev'ry blessing. Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

OFFERTORY 681 We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Verse 3



3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.

Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt.
Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and rest upon you now and forevermore. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 665 Rise, Shine, You People



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003

Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Setting of *Italian Hymn*

By Jacob B. Weber (b. 1988)

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR: URL: <https://zoom.us/j/753360733>



Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, Pastor

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.stjohnssummit.org

908-273-3846 | Fax: 908-273-9604

We're delighted you're worshipping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.



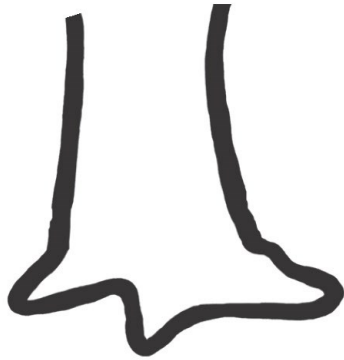
READER

Pentecost 15

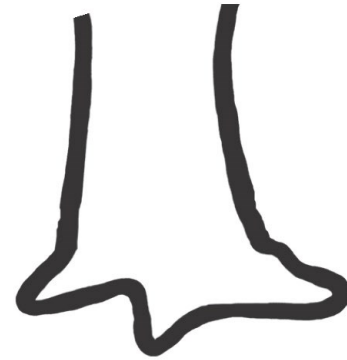
- Today is the **15th** Sunday after Pentecost.
- Pentecost begins **50 days** after Easter Sunday.
- The Pentecost season continues throughout **summer and fall**.
- Pentecost includes the **fall harvest**.

The Tree of Life

Today's story tells about a famine. A famine is a time of no rain when crops do not grow very well. In the midst of famine, God still provided abundance. Create a famine tree and an abundance tree. Unscramble the words below each tree.



thea
meanif
nagre



eovl
tunaband
viefrog

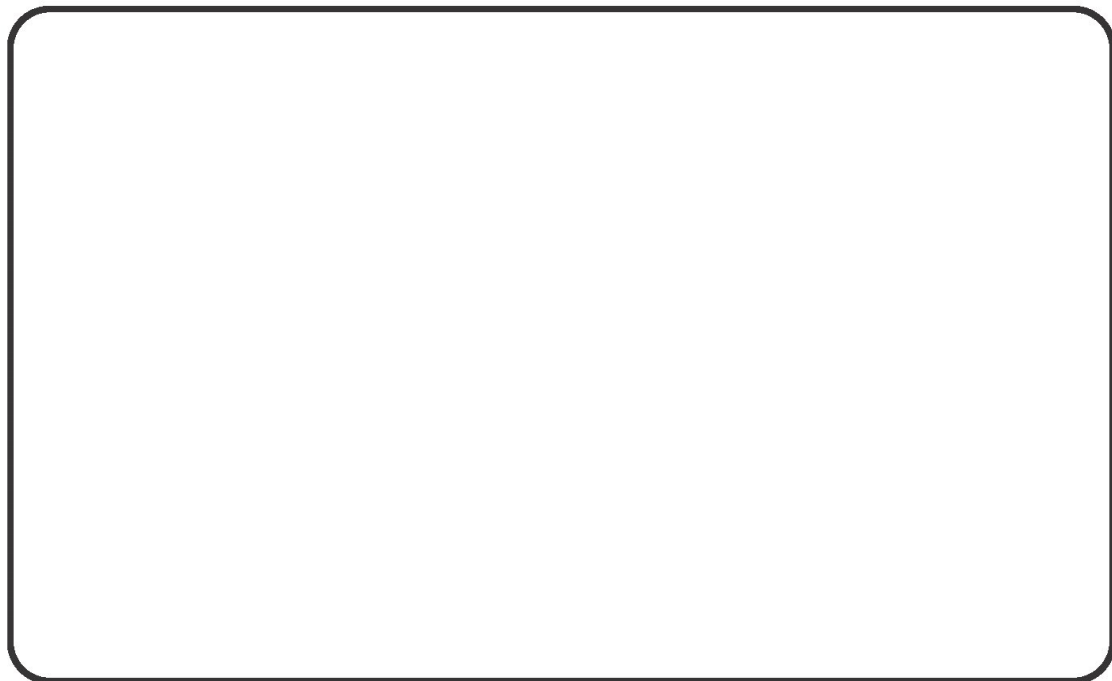


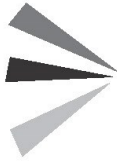
News flash! Joseph forgives brothers

Genesis 50:15-21

Forgiveness is a way of saying "I love you" after you've been hurt by another person. The Bible is full of stories about forgiveness because God always forgives!

Draw a line from the story boxes to their matching pictures. In the speech bubbles write something else you think each person said.





I forgive you.
It's okay!
I love you.

Oh look at my
beautiful new coat!
It's awesome.
Thanks Dad!



Hope you like it
down there! Now we
won't have to look at
your coat anymore!

Why did YOU get a
new coat and WE
didn't? We're mad
at you!

Even though you intended to do
harm to me, God intended it for
good.

Genesis 50:20

Memory Verse



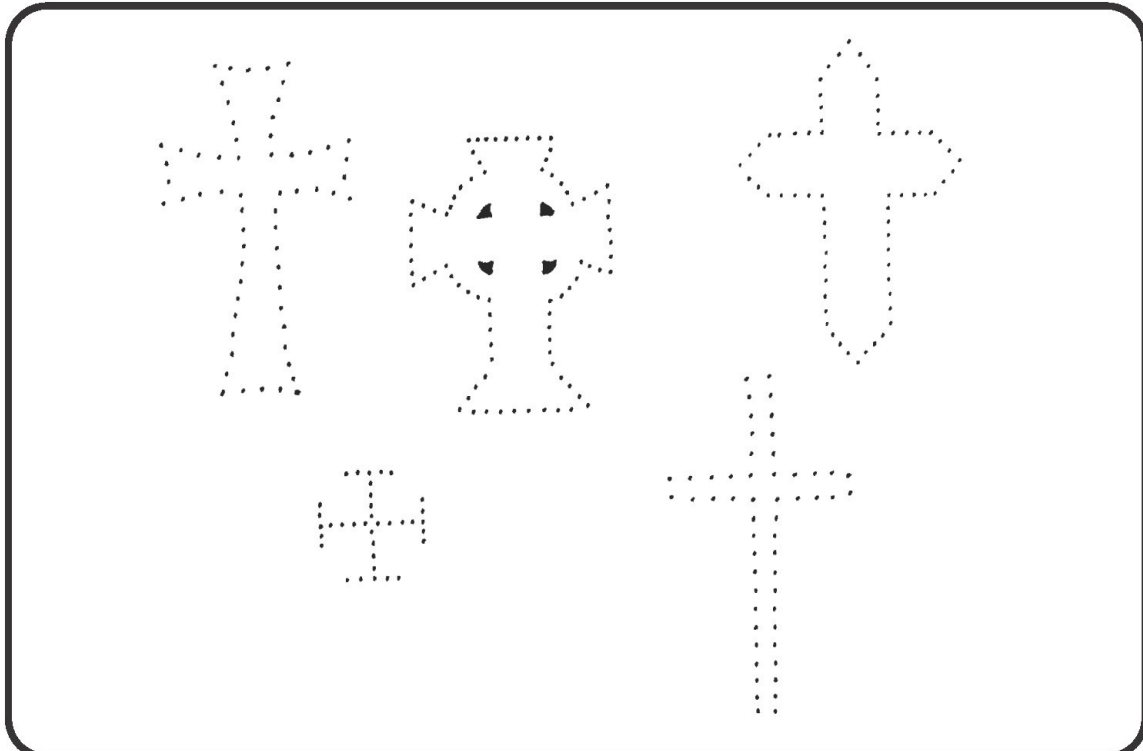
Has this ever happened to you? Something bad turned into
something good. Draw a picture or write about what happened in the
box on the left.



Holy Cross Day

Some churches celebrate Holy Cross Day every September. The cross reminds us of Jesus. Look around your worship space and notice the crosses. Where are they? Do they all look the same?

Trace the dotted lines to uncover different kinds of crosses. Do you have a cross at home? What does it look like? Draw it in the space below.



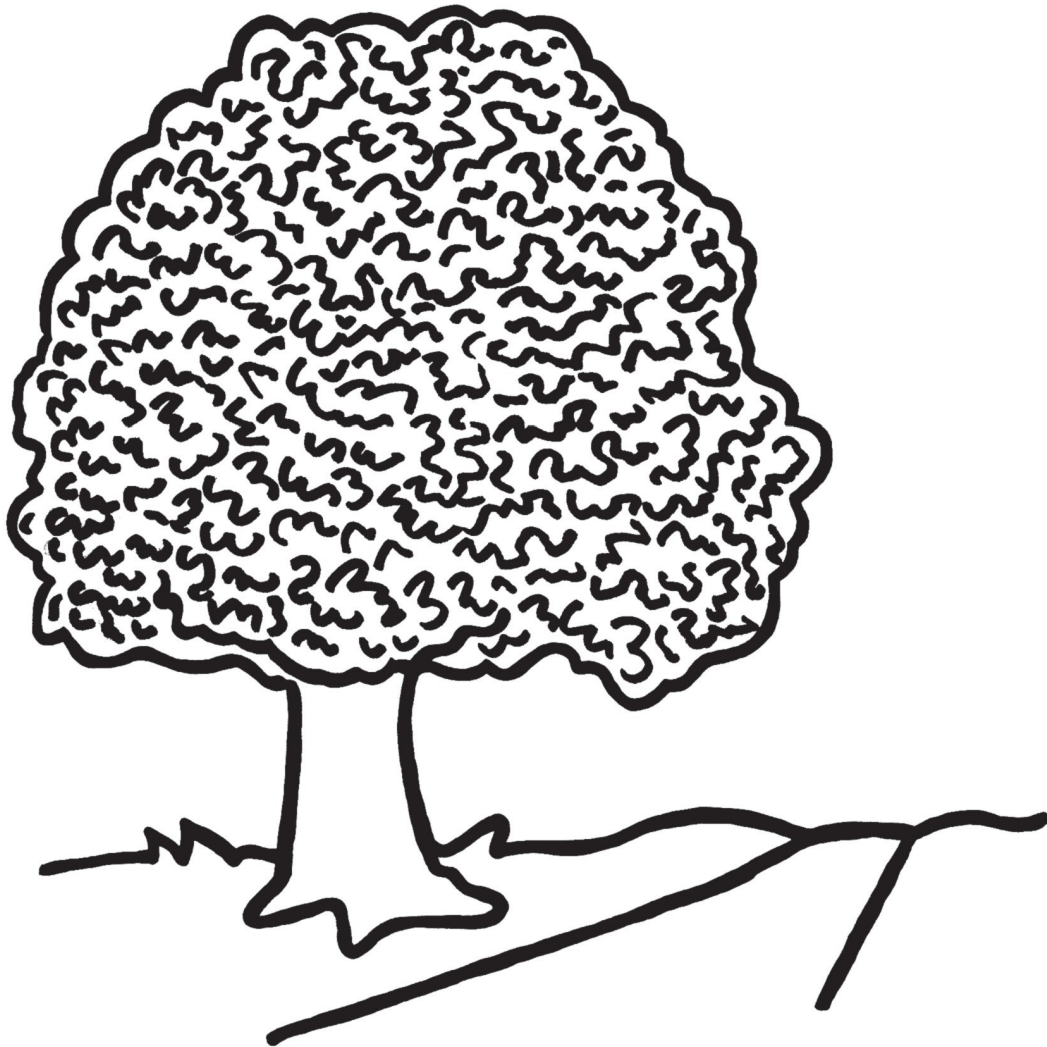


PRE-READER

Pentecost 15

- Today is the **15th Sunday** after Pentecost.
- Pentecost is a **season** of **growing**.
- God wants our **love** to **grow** and **grow**.

Our sign for Pentecost is a tree. Color this tree green to show that the leaves are growing.



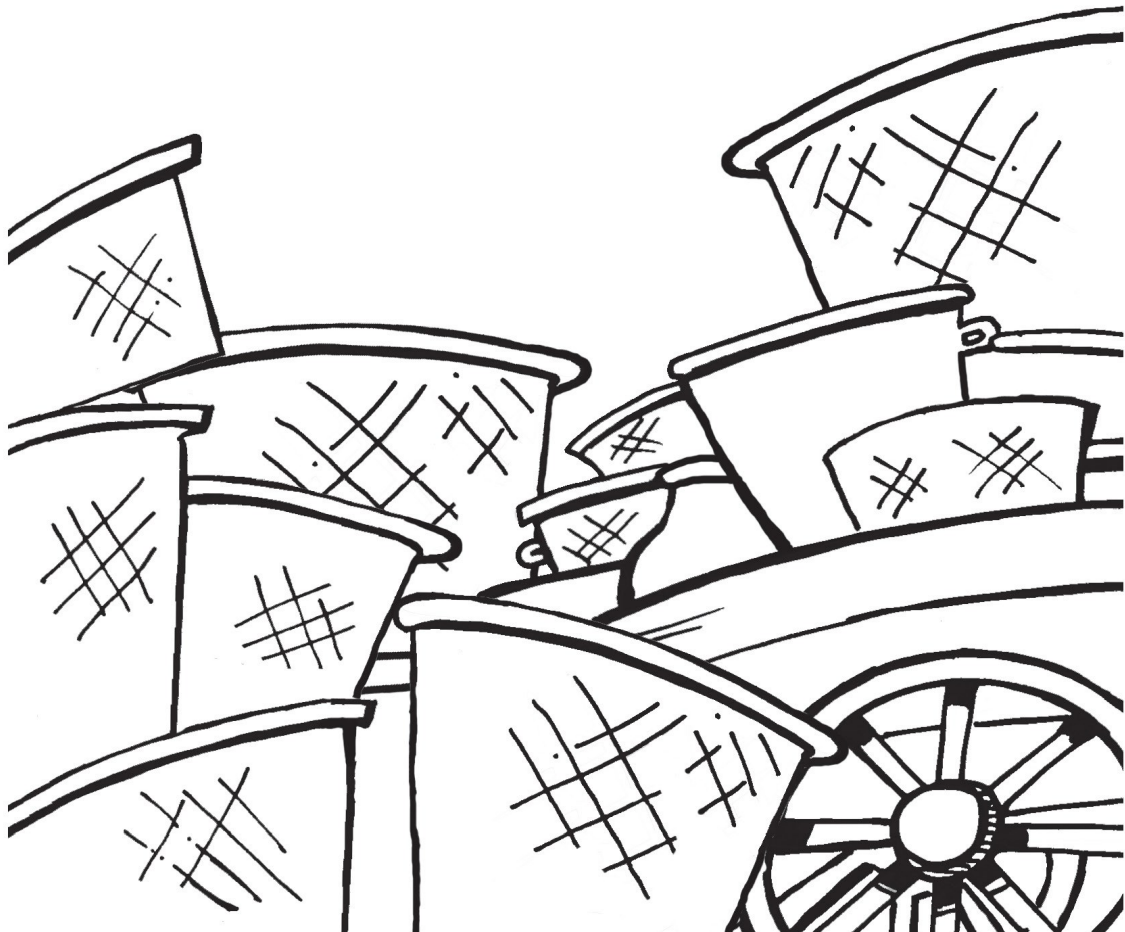


“This is all I could ask for,” Joseph’s father said.



Joseph gave his family baskets of food.

**Fill the baskets with something to help
your family.**



Do you see anything green at church?

Draw those things here.

