

**Ephraim Moravian Church**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Holy Communion**  
13th September, 2020

Welcome & Announcements

**“Amazing Grace,” arranged by Ron Harris**

Watchword for the Week: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God’s benefits - *Psalms 103:2*

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

**Hymn #552 (v. 1-3): “When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries, “May Jesus Christ be praised!”  
In all my work and prayer I ask his loving care: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, when day is past, of all my thoughts the last: May Jesus Christ be praised!  
The night becomes as day when from the heart I say: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let earth’s wide circle round in joyful notes resound: May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Prayers of the Church/The Lord’s Prayer

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 18: 21-35

**“Andante,” by Mozart/Schreiner**

Reflection

Meditation

**“Were You There?” arranged by Ron Harris**

The Lord’s Supper:  
*Breaking of the Bread*

**Hymn: #775 (v. 1-3): “For God So Loved Us”**

For God so loved us, He sent the Savior; For God so loved us and loves me too.  
Love so unending, I’ll sing your praises; God loves His children, loves even me.

He sent the Savior, the blessed Redeemer; He sent the Savior to set me free.  
Love so unending, I’ll sing your praises; God loves His children, loves even me.

He bade me welcome, O word of mercy; He bade me welcome, O voice divine.  
Love so unending, I’ll sing your praises; God loves His children, loves even me.

*The Cup of Salvation*

## Hymn #350 (v. 1, 2 & 4): “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!

Pastor: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death.

Congregation: *Until he comes!*

## “Larghetto” by Anton Dvorák

Benediction

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## Reflection: “Who’s Counting?” by Pastor Dan Olson

Has anyone ever asked you a question, then supplied the answer they wanted by asking another question? That is what Peter did to Jesus one day: “Jesus, how many times should I forgive someone?” Then Peter asked the question, “How about seven times? Is that good enough?” Peter really was not being stingy with forgiveness. In fact, the Old Testament declared that three times was okay. But then, Jesus demolishes Peter’s line of thinking: “No, Peter, you must forgive seventy times seven!”

WHAT? That is totally outlandish! Does Jesus require us to place ourselves completely at the mercy of some uncaring, unrepentant sinner? Does He eliminate “tough love” solutions? Ought we to forgive, no matter what? Jesus is not inviting us to keep careful records but is setting a standard that makes record-keeping totally selfish. He does not give us a math-lesson, but a “grace-lesson”. Who can truly forgive seventy times seven while keeping track? Who can forgive habitually without becoming a forgiving person? Who can forget and let go of someone’s sins while putting chalk marks on the wall? To keep track is not to forgive, but to eagerly look to the day when we can quit forgiving- we have fulfilled our obligation, enough of this forgiveness business! A person keeping records of forgiveness is like a rogue banker whose motive is foreclosure.

The point is, our sins put Jesus on the Cross. That is forgiveness beyond all measure. Broken as we are, Jesus invites us to live in the realm of endless love and forgiveness...Seventy times seven.

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Pastor: Dawn E. Volpe  
Music Director: Colin Welford

Lay Reader: Kathleen Harris  
Guest Musician: Linda Van Dyke

