

Zion Lutheran Church



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

5:30 p.m. July 25th, 2020

9:00 a.m. July 26th, 2020

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “All You Works of God, Bless the Lord”



1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
 2 Hills and moun - tains, now sing his worth,
 3 Come hu - man - i - ty, sing a - long,
 4 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;



All you an - gels, now bless the Lord;
 all you green things that grow on earth;
 sing, you peo - ple of God, a song;
 all you hum - ble, his prais - es start;



come you heav - ens and powers that be,
 seas and riv - ers, you springs and wells,
 priests and serv - ants, your Lord now bless,
 God the Fa - ther and Son a - dore,



praise the Lord and his maj - es - ty:
 beasts and cat - tle, you birds and whales:
 join, you spir - its and souls at rest. Raise your voic - es high,
 bless the Spir - it for - ev - er - more!



WORDS: Stephen P. Starke (1955-)
MUSIC: Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter (1925-1980)
Words © 1995 Stephen P. Starke
Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C **Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

1 Kings 3:5-12 *Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:129-136 (read responsively)

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

Romans 8:26-39 *These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind

of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

"Ask What I Should Give You"

Pastor Mark Luepke

Stand

HYMN:

"God of Our Life, All-Glorious Lord"



1 God of our life, all - glo - rious Lord, be now and
2 Make clear our path, that we may see where we must
3 Give us thy help in ev - 'ry task, nor let us
4 At e - ven - tide then will we raise a grate - ful



ev - er - more a - dored! In - to the o - p'ning
walk to be with thee and ev - er lis - ten
fail of thee to ask for grace in speech, for
heart in songs of praise, and wor - ship thee and



of this day bring grace and love and peace, we pray.
 for thy voice, that we may make thy way our choice.
 love in deed, from wrong-ful ac-tions to be freed.
 thy dear Son with God the Spir-it, ev-er one.

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947

Music: GROSSER GOFT, Maria Theresa, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, 1774, adapt.

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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, 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

Each petition ends with: Lord, in your mercy. Please respond with: **Hear our prayer.**

P In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

PEACE

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

Sit

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

P God has blessed us in so many ways and with so many gifts. May God's gifts sustain you in these days. And may your sharing of God's gifts sustain others.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

ELW # 207



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom-is-es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. **God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Nourish us through your gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

Stand

LORD'S PRAYER

P Throughout the scriptures we are encouraged to pray. Let us now pray together as Jesus encouraged his disciples:

C **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.**

BLESSING

P Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C **Amen.**

HYMN:

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

ELW # 775



1 Je - sus, price - less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear - ly loves us, from all tri - al



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;
saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be - side thee.
yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINE FREUDE, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE “Fanfare in A^b Major” by Charles Ore

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Proclaimer:

Organist:

Worship Assistants:

5:30 pm

Pastor Mark Luepke

Christine Holmer

Jurgen Duhr

9:00 am

Pastor Mark Luepke

Christine Holmer

Judy Carstensen

THIS SUNDAY’S RADIO BROADCAST is sponsored by Arlene Job and family in memory of Jacob “Jack” Job.

ZION’S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, “THE COURIER” will be mailed out this week. If you are not on the Courier mailing list, but would like to be, please contact the church office and share your name and mailing address.

Worship Procedures

Here is what you need to know in regards to how things will need to be for a while at Zion in order to do what we can to care for one another and keep each other well. (It is assumed that everyone knows that one should not come to worship if one feels ill.)

- 1) Please practice “**social distancing**” (maintain six feet between you and non-family members).
- 2) The CDC encourages the use of **cloth face coverings** (masks), especially when social distancing is difficult. These face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Wanting to do what we can to provide choices and to welcome *all* to worship, we are **requiring masks to be worn at the Saturday evening service, while encouraging them at the Sunday morning service.** (Masks are available in the narthex for those who don’t have one. They are yours to keep.)
- 3) **Hand sanitizer** is available in both the narthex and the Gathering Space. **Coats or jackets** should be taken into the sanctuary with you.
- 4) The **building and sanctuary** furnishings will be cleaned after/before each worship gathering. Parts of the building will be “off limits” as we gather to worship.
- 5) The **hearing assist devices** available from the ushers will be cleaned, disinfected, and new earpads will be fitted after each worship service.
- 6) The **children’s room** at the rear of the sanctuary will not be open for use, nor will children’s activity bags be available.
- 7) **Worship bulletins and children’s bulletins** are on tables in the narthex. All “used” bulletins should be taken home after worship.
- 8) The **offering plates** will not be passed during the worship service. They are located at the entrances to the sanctuary so that you can place your offering in the plate before or after worship.
- 9) To maintain social distancing, every other pew is closed. Within the open **pews**, please maintain at least a six foot distance between you and your fellow worshipper. However, this does not apply to family members; they may sit together. (Saturday worship service seating will initially be only on the pulpit side of the sanctuary.)
- 10) **Singing** can increase the spread of aerosol particles (the droplets from one’s mouth). While one option is to not sing at all, other options presented are to sing only while masked, sing “quietly,” or make sure that you are at least 10-12 feet away from others if you are going to sing.
- 11) **Greeting** one another and **sharing the peace** within worship should be done in non-physical ways, while maintaining distance. Also, any **socializing** after worship should take place outside of the building, while still respecting social spacing guidelines.
- 12) Worshipers will be **ushered out** at the end of the service. When Holy Communion is not a part of the worship service, ushering out will begin from the back of the sanctuary and work towards the front.
- 13) We have been advised to not yet offer **Holy Communion** within our worship services.
- 14) For the Saturday evening service, women are asked to use the “Family **Restroom**” located off the coatrack hallway near the sanctuary – instead of the regular women’s restroom.

Zion Contact Information

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