**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost Worship**

*For music performed by Deb & Ben please see the links in the description box below the YouTube video or visit the Sermons page of the church website. Lyrics for the music can be found at the end of this worship liturgy.*

**☩** indicates you are invited to make the sign of the cross.

Congregation speaks the **Bold** text.

Opening

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

whose steadfast love is everlasting,

whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

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**.

Word

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” 6 And 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. 7 And 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. 8 And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. 9 Give 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?”

10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 God 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, 12 I 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.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:129-136 (read in unison)

**129 Your 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.**

**131 I 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.**

**133 Order 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.**

**135 Let 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.**

Second Reading: Romans 8: 26-39

26 The 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. 27 And 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.

  28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29 For 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. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

  31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He 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? 33 Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who 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. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written,

 “For your sake we are being killed all day long;

  we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.

**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.”

  33 He 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; 46 on 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; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and 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.” 52 And 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

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.**

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Especially we pray today for our Synod prayers partner Faith Lutheran Church in Saginaw and John Soyster their pastor and Pacifica Synod in Santa Ana, California and Andrew Taylor their bishop.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, when your word is opened, it gives true light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. We pray especially for all nations suffering from warfare, violence, and corruption.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick especially all those affected by Covid-19 and those we know and love who are sick or suffering in any way.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, you show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time and guide us to boldly live our baptism faith every day.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Merciful God, in you the lives of the faithful are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your saints in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light.

 Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Offering

*Normally during this time in worship, we would now receive the offering. Thank you to our electronic givers and all those who have lovingly continued to send in your offerings so the missions and ministries of the church can continue. LCS mail is checked several times a week so offering checks made out to LCS can be mailed in and will be safely collected and deposited.*

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together as our Lord Jesus taught us to pray saying…

**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.**

Benediction

Dismissal

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

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