



July 26, 2020 - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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Prelude: **“Song for Sienna”** (Brian Crane)

Invocation / Welcome & Announcements

Psalm 100:2 **“Serve the Lord with gladness. Enter into His presence with singing.”**

Call to Worship Hymn: **“Amazing Grace”** (Best Loved Hymns; Green Hymnal #448)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (brief silence)

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

Absolution: Words of Comfort & Forgiveness

Hymn of Thanksgiving and Praise: **“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”** (Top 50 Praise Songs; Blue Hymnal #107)

Service of Holy Baptism for Justin Gubrud (may be after the service)

Verses of the Day: Romans 5:5 & 6:1-4

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. ^{6:1} **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?** ² **Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?** ³ **Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?** ⁴ **Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** (NKJV)

Prayer of the Day: **Glorious God, Your generosity waters the earth with mercy and You cover creation with the sound of Your name. In the waters of baptism, through Your Holy Spirit, You awaken in us a hunger for the spiritual food that by Your name satisfies both body and spirit, and with this heavenly food, fill all who starve for righteousness in this world. Give us a hunger for justice, and righteousness, empower us to be Your instruments, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior and Lord of all who confess Your name. Amen**

Prayers of the Church: Claiming the promise that the prayers of a forgiven people carries much weight with God through Christ's sacrifice, and being filled with His Spirit, let us join the whole people of God in Christ Jesus in prayer for the churches, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Gracious and merciful God, incline Your ear and hear us. Raise up strong leaders among our youth to guide Your mission, especially among the Gideons, in Estonia, the Philippines, China, and here in the United States. Let everyone who hungers for food or righteousness be fed, and let us be Your instruments.

Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayers.**

Giver of every good, the earth flourishes under Your steadfast love and care. Open Your hand to satisfy the desire of every person who longs for the compassion You have shown, for all that You have made.

Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayers.**

For all who call upon Your name in this anger-torn world, the thirst for justice and peace is never quenched. We pray for all who suffer under a tyranny of authority, or illness, or oppression especially...

Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayers.**

Merciful Savior, when we are falling, hold us up, when we are bowed down with grief or loneliness, raise us up; when we are hungry, fill us, when we are sick, heal us. When we are lost, guide and keep us in Your tender care, especially those families in our own church. We rejoice in the families of Mary Tronerud, Richard and Marilyn Venem, Lowell & Mavis Veum, Dean Vikan, and Les & Patti Vikan, who serve **in Your name.**

Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayers.**

Holy Spirit, accompany and empower all of us who are experiencing life changing transitions, especially during this pandemic; who are pursuing new ways of studying, learning & teaching, or living; those who are retiring, or finding new ways of doing a job or performing services, and those who are moving to new communities, or away from friends and family. Give us all courage to embrace the good things about change and flourish under the new rules of being together.

Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayers.**

God of our loved ones, with gratitude for their loving witness and faith-filled lives, we remember those who have died **in Your name.** Receive the praise of all those who call upon **Your name.**

Lord in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayers.**

Into Your loving hands, gracious Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your abundant mercy, through **Jesus Christ** our Savior.

All God's people say **Amen.**

Prepare to Hear the Word: **"Spirit of God, Descend upon My heart"** (Best Loved Hymns; Green Hymnal #486)

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12

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.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

Likewise 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.

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" Psalm 119:105 (Songs 4 Worship)

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

Jesus put before them 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."

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" Psalm 119:105 (Songs 4 Worship)

Children's Sermon / Adult Sermon

Hymn of Faith: **"Are You Washed in the Blood?"** (Freedom's Call; Blue Hymnal #330)

Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

P: The peace of the Lord be with you; **C: and also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

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

P: Jesus is alive! **C: And that makes all the difference.**

Closing Hymn of Praise & Thanksgiving: **"He Leadeth Me"** (Best Loved Hymns; Blue Hymnal #690)

P: Go in peace; serve the Lord, **C: thanks be to God.**

Postlude: **"When We All Get to Heaven"** (Best Loved Hymns; Blue Hymnal #772)

"Song for Sienna" (Brian Crane)