

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020



In Our Separation *God draws near*

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

*You are invited to bring a bowl of water into your sacred space
as we remember our Baptismal unity.*



Gathering Music

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Greeting

As we gather from our separate locations, let us join together in worship in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

As a remembrance of your baptism into the community of God's people of all times and all places, dip your finger into your bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.

Confession & Forgiveness

Trusting in the promise of God's forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

we have seen the injustice in our world more clearly. The marginalized and invisible among us have been brought to our attention in vivid and shocking ways.

We confess our part in the suffering of the world. For not always loving our neighbors as you have commanded us. For not always having empathy for the suffering of others. For not always sharing our wealth with those who have little.

We ask that you draw near to us in our time of uncertainty. Forgive us our failure to live as your witness in the world. Forgive us our failure to love and support those in need. Forgive us our failure to care for your world.

Through the abundance of God's grace, you are forgiven of all your sin. Through the example of Jesus, you are given a model of love. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, you are revitalized to serve. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Seek Ye First

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia**

**We do not live by bread alone,
but be ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, Alleluia**

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.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

Scripture Readings

Psalm 119:129-136

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

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Come and Fill Our Hearts Red ELW 528

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **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;³²it 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you. O Christ.**

Message

Song

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

-Thygerson & Kirkpatrick

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

Red ELW 752

Sung before prayers

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace**

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

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

Amen.

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.**

Sharing God's Peace

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

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

Blessing & Sending

In our separation, may the God who draws near bless you with:
Peace for trembling hearts,
Strength for weary souls,
And Love for all life.

The God who draws near calls us together to follow.
Siblings in Christ, follow God who draws us near to love and care for the poor.
Together with God and one another, we will follow.

Sending Song

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

The supper is ended.

Oh, now be extended

the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching,

receptive souls reaching,

shall blossom in action for God and for all.

Your grace shall incite us,

your love shall unite us

to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,

the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—

our faith ever sharing,

in love ever caring,

embracing God's children, the whole human race.

With your feast you feed us,

with your light now lead us;

unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living

with praise and thanksgiving

give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Sending

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

Postlude

All Things Bright and Beautiful

- arr. Summers



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Assisting Minister: Scott Ikenberry
- Reader: Gloria Lloyd
- Special Music & Postlude: Meredith Lusby
 - Photos: Winston Herbert
- Musicians: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues