

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



July 26, 2020

10:00 a.m.

*We welcome Pr. Jenn Kopacz and  
Grace Lutheran Church*

## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

### INTRODUCTION

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!

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor (P) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Congregation (C) Amen.

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Reconciling God,

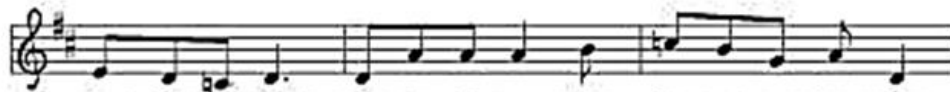
C we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P Beloved of God,  
by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through  
☩ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name,  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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## GREETING

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

**C** And also with you.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

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.

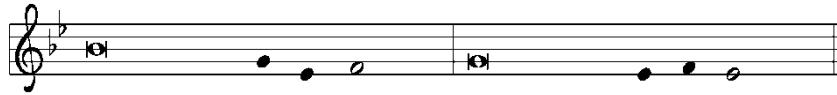
**C** Amen.



+ WORD +

**PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136**

*We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader <sup>129</sup>Your de- | crees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

**C** <sup>130</sup>When your word is opened | it gives light;  
it gives understanding | to the simple.

L <sup>131</sup>I open my | mouth and pant  
because I long for | your commandments.

**C** <sup>132</sup>Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,  
as you always do to those who | love your name.

L <sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps | in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

**C** <sup>134</sup>Rescue me from those | who oppress me,  
and I will keep | your commandments.

L <sup>135</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant  
and teach | me your statutes.

**C** <sup>136</sup>My eyes shed | streams of tears,  
because people do not | keep your teaching.

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

**C** Amen.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL: 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, the thirteenth chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>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."

<sup>33</sup>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."

<sup>44</sup>"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.

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

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

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>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.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      **793**      *Be Thou My Vision (vs. 1 & 3)*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.

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

## APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C 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: Lord, in your mercy,*

*Congregational response: hear our prayer.*



+ MEAL +

## OFFERING HYMN

686

*We Give Thee but Thine Own (verses 1 & 4)*

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.



## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,  
he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

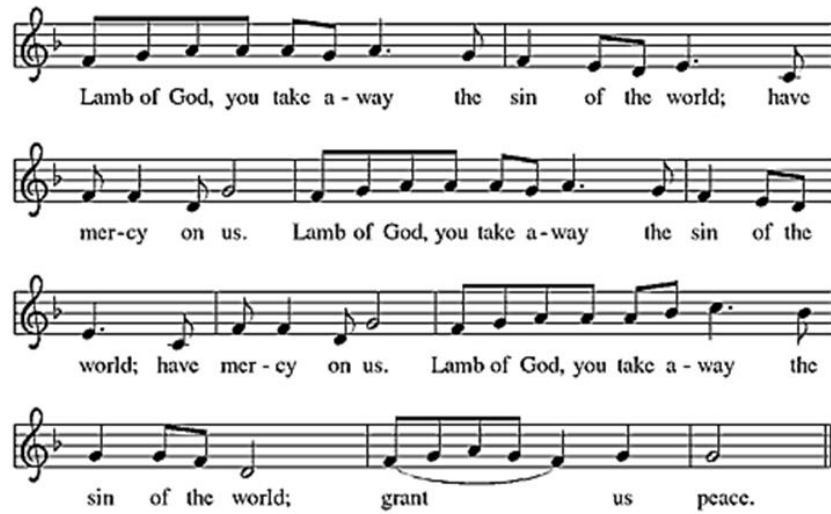
P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

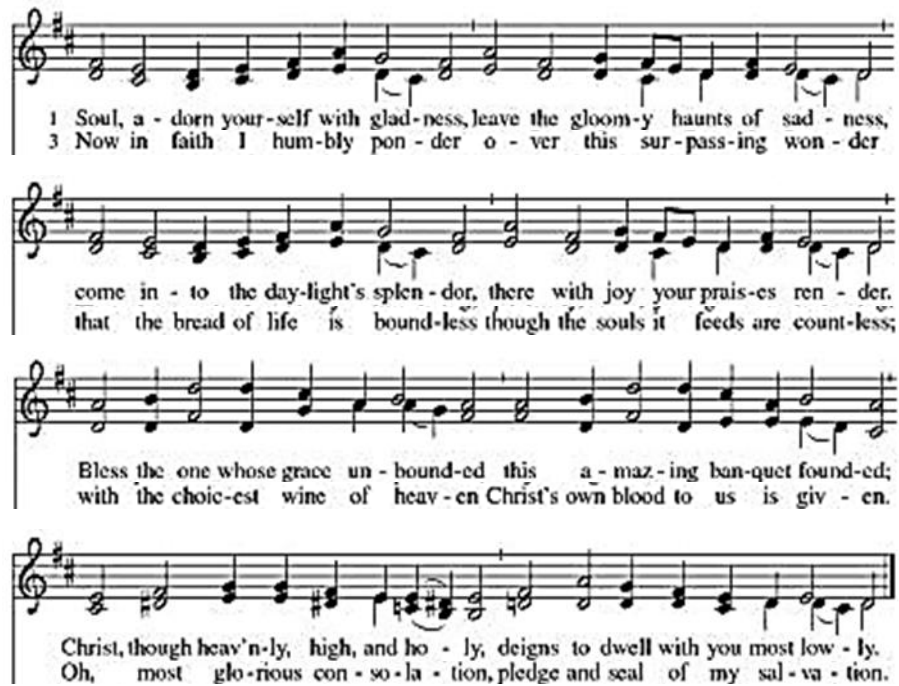
## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN 488 *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (vs. 1 & 3)*



1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad - ness,  
3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur-pass-ing won - der  
come in - to the day-light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.  
that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less;  
Bless the one whose grace un - bound-ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;  
with the choic-est wine of heav-en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.  
Christ, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
Oh, most glo-rious con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618-1677; II. Lutheran Book of Worship  
Music: SCHUMUCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662  
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray.

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**C** Amen.

## **+ SENDING +**

**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

**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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# SENDING HYMN

705 *God of Grace and God of Glory (vs. 1 & 4)*

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, sell - ish glad - ness,  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days,  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969  
 Music: CWMI RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

## DISMISSAL

P We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:

C **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.**

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God!**

+ + +



**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
BY "COOTIE" LOUISE RHODES  
IN LOVE AND APPRECIATION FOR HER  
DAUGHTER, BETTY WILDER.**

### Calendar for July 26 - August 2

July	26	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Worship (online), Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
	29	Wed.	Noon	Bible study (Zoom)
Aug.	02	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship (online), Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

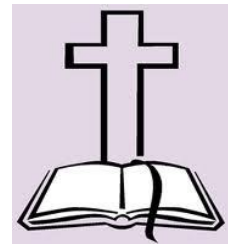
### **Next Sunday's Readings, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:**

[1 Kings 3:5-12](#)

[Psalms 119:129-136](#)

[Romans 8:26-39](#)

[Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#)



## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Family of Pr. Jenn Kopacz, mourning the passing of her grandmother, Shirlee Josselyn; Randy Martin (cousin of Bob Eshleman), positive with COVID-19; Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl's) diagnosed with ALS; Jamie Ann Meyers (friend of Cheryl's) diagnosed with ALS Kate Stuart, Emma Griffin and Austin Griffin, for healing after boat accident; Zoya/Charlie, child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl), for healing of inoperable cancerous brain tumor; Chris Dickman (synod councilmember/Castle Church manager), for healing and wholeness; prayers for healing for Jon Larson (from Tim Larson); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer), diagnosed with inoperable brain tumor.

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor); being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Stephanie Barber; Tim Bowling (brother-in-law of Judi Duffy); Peter Torlucci (brother of Margaret Bowers); Kamie Stonemetz (daughter of Jim Christianson); Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personal, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc. All immigrant families split apart by US Government; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those "unaccounted for".

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

***Other concerns:*** Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen's Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola .

***World concerns:*** For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.