



July 23, 2023

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand* Music: “Sweet Hour of Prayer” “The Tree of Life”

- ♪ The tree of life with ev’ry good In Eden’s holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned Against whose eating God had warned.
- ♪ The stillness of that sacred grove Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile And Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed Within the world so newly made.
- ♪ What mercy God showed to our race, A plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman’s seed, The One to fill our greatest need-
For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread To crush the ancient serpent’s head!
- ♪ Now from that tree of Jesus’ shame Flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev’ry good.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 561-Text: Stephen P. Starke b.1955; ©1993 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House;
Tune: William B. Bradbury 1816-68; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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
cleans us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**We confess, gracious God, that we groan not only because of sin in the world, but our
failure to trust You for all that we need. We have not waited patiently; we have
demanded reasons from You; we have sought to excuse ourselves. Yet You have given
us the Spirit, who intercedes for us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to hope not in
ourselves but in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where you were redeemed as God's beloved children. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Psalmody *Please Be Seated*

Psalm 119:57–64

The Lord is my portion;

I promise to keep Your words.

I entreat Your favor with all my heart;

Be gracious to me according to Your promise.

When I think on my ways,

I turn my feet to Your testimonies;

I hasten and do not delay

To keep Your commandments.

Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,

I do not forget Your law.

At midnight I rise to praise You,

Because of Your righteous rules.

I am a companion of all who fear You,

Of those who keep Your precepts.

The earth, O Lord, is full of Your steadfast love;

Teach me Your statutes!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6–8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

“I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

- ♪ Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing;
Help us to praise; Father all-glorious, O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.
- ♪ Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword;
Our prayer attend. Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness On us descend.
- ♪ Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour! Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.
- ♪ To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be
Hence evermore! Thy sov'reign majesty May we in glory see,
And to eternity Love and adore.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 905 -Text: English, before 1760; Tune: Felice de Giardini 1716-96,
Setting: Lutheran Book of Worship 1985; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel Please Stand

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the

weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul”

- ♪ Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev’ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; your God will undertake To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears. Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; the hour is hast’ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 752-Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel 1697-1752, tr. Jane L. Borthwick 1813-97
Tune: Jean Sibelius 1865-1957, setting: The Hymnbook 1955; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“Who Forms Whom?”

Isaiah 44:6–8

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, heavenly Father, as we pray in hope.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”

- ♪ Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.
- ♪ Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way; With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name.
- ♪ Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night; Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.
- ♪ Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life, Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 917-Text: John Ellerton 1826-93; Tune: Edward J. Hopkins 1818-1901;
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Postlude