

Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, SD
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
zionlutheranaberdeen.org
Erin Heidelberger, Pastor
Tim Sersen, Visitation Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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

Prelude in G Minor / Fugue
J.S. Bach

Sonya Kempf, organ

WELCOME & PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**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.**

Beloved of God,
in the abundance of God's mercy, we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
By Christ's authority, I declare to you that all your 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. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* ELW #771



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927
Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
Text © 1967 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

Lauren & Pippa Sahli

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

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.**

KIDS' TIME

Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

Dawn Sahli, lector

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

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

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

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

PSALM

Psalms 119:129-136

(read responsively)

Dawn Sahli, lector

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

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 up-on 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

Dawn Sahli, lector

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

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



The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

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.**

SERMON

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

HYMN OF THE DAY

***What God Ordains Is Good Indeed* ELW #776**



1 What God or - dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
 2 What God or - dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
 3 What God or - dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
 4 What God or - dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
 No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
 I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
 on dan-ger's path, in deep-est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
 Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
 God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
 My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
 clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
 mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
 hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
 Music: WAS GOT T UT, Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682
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APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 THE PEOPLE

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each petition: Turn to us, O God. **Be gracious to us.**

All these things and whatever else we need, we ask you in the name of and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

*Thank you for your faithful giving that has continued during this time!
Ministry at this time depends on regular giving. If you would like to give
online now, you can use this QR code scanner on your smart phone to be
directed to the Giving page on our website. You can also mail your
offerings in to the church.*



OFFERTORY SONG

Ariosto
J. S. Bach

Sonya Kempf, organ

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.**

BLESSING

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. **Amen.**



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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SENDING WORDS

Lauren & Pippa Sahli

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

POSTLUDE

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Leading worship today:

Pastor Erin Heidelberger
Pastoral Assistant Saundra Anderson
Sonya Kempf, organ
Zach Anderson, vocalist
Sahli Family: Dawn (lector), Lauren, and Pippa

Prayers

As a community of faith in Christ, we are connected through joy, sorrow, worship, and prayer. Please pray for the people listed below.

We ask for God's loving embrace to hold all those who mourn, especially:

Nicole Kempf (and husband Shawn and daughters Ella, Raegan, and Zoe), whose mother, Delores Sumption, passed away on Friday.

As we are praying for all members of Zion, this week we pray especially for God's comfort, healing, protection, strength, and peace to be with:

Lyle Chapin (Avera Heart Hospital,
Sioux Falls)
LaVonne Peterson (Prairie Heights)

Those with ongoing concerns:

Leonard Berger
Joe Bosmoe
Hilda Hoffman
Gene Reich
Duane Wagemann

Announcements

TODAY'S RADIO BROADCAST is sponsored by LaVern Albrecht in memory her daughter Paula who passed away seven years ago.

PASTOR ERIN will be on vacation July 26-August 2. Pastor Tim will be available for pastoral needs during this time.

THE SPECIAL OFFERING for July is Lutheran World Relief. Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of WW II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last longer after our projects end. Find out more at lwr.org.

WELCOME BACK TO IN-BUILDING WORSHIP! We are excited to begin welcoming worshipers back into the building starting on **Sunday, August 16**. For the time being, we will have one Sunday morning service at 8:30 and maintain our online worship service as well. We will be limiting attendance at the 8:30 service in order to ensure that we are able to practice physical distancing, as well as other adaptations to reduce the risk of virus transmission. Watch your mail for the August newsletter, which will outline all of the details about this service.

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED - Since we have not yet been able to gather for in-person worship due to Covid-19, our radio broadcast ministry is more important than ever. Generous sponsors provide for each Sunday's broadcast, and we are currently in need of sponsors for **August 23 (half service available), August 30, and September 6**.

Would you consider donating either the whole cost or half the cost of a Sunday broadcast? A whole Sunday service is \$110.00 and one half is \$55.00. You are welcome to donate in remembrance of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion to support this ministry. To sign up for a broadcast, contact the church office at 225-6755.

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