

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 30, 2023**  
**10:30 a.m.**

*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!*



**Leading Worship Today**

*Presiding Minister:* Pastor Ann Kelly

*Music Director:* Tamara Lewis

*Singers:* Laurie Badone, Todd and Tamara Lewis and Sherie Moses

*Piano:* Jana Draper

*Assisting Minister:* Sherie Moses

*Lector:* Joseph Dilworth

*Usher:* Peggy Dilworth

*Livestream Operator:* Gregory Lewis

*The altar arrangements are given to the glory of God*

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‡ **GATHERING** ‡

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

*"God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"*

arr. Dale Woods

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

*We stand as we are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive 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.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*"God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"*

Red ELW 771

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**C And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This Is the Feast"

6

**C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu -  
 ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. **II** Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and  
 strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his. **C** This is the feast of  
 vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** Sing with  
 all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion:**II** Bless-ing and  
 hon-or, glo-ry and might to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - -  
 men. **C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia, al -  
 le - lu - ia. **I, II** For the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his  
 reign. Al - le - lu - ia. **C** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-  
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. A - men

6

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

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.**

*The congregation is seated.*

‡ **WORD** ‡

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

*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.*

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>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, <sup>12</sup>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."

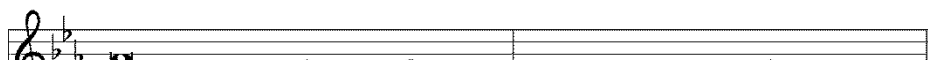
L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 119:129-136

*Light Type-Cantor, Bold Type-Congregation*

TO NE



REFRAIN



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39**

*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.*

26 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.

L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

We stand as we are able.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Word of God, Come Down to Earth”*

Red ELW 510

Music: Johann Ahle

Words: © James Quinn admin. Selah Publishing Co.

Word of God come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
heav'n de - scend ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith - and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.**

*The congregation is seated.*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Pastor Ann Kelly

**SERMON**

Pastor Ann Kelly

*We stand as we are able.*

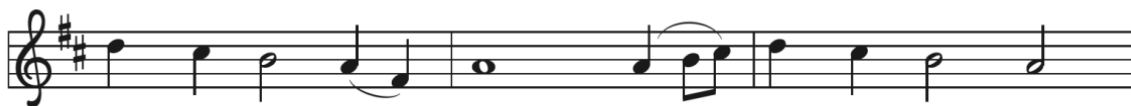
**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"The Reign of God"*

ACS 952



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears  
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on  
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,  
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from  
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are  
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that  
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it  
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry  
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.  
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.  
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.  
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.  
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939  
Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816  
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**APOSTLES' CREED**

A We confess our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed.

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

A Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form us into disciples. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick. Today we especially pray for the family and friends of Earlene Peterson, and for Loretta, Russell, Connie, Carolyn, Heidi, Charles, Linda, Ramyn, Elvira, Kathryn, Mark, Nancy, and those we name before you now, whether aloud or in the silence of our hearts. (*A brief silence.*) Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. Hear us, God.



**C Your mercy is great.**

A Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

### SHARING THE PEACE

*The presiding minister and the congregation share the peace of Christ with one another.*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*The congregation is seated.*

### ✠ MEAL ✠

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERING

*An offering is gathered to support the ministries of the church, as we return to God what God has first given us. We are not passing around offering plates at this time. You are invited to bring your offering forward at this time to place in an offering plate, or you may bring it when you come forward to receive communion.*

### ANTHEM

*“Neither Death Nor Life”*

Red ELW 622

Congregation-please sing all the refrains

*We stand as we are able.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other to begin the Great Thanksgiving.*

**[P]** *The Lord be with you.* **[C]** *And al-so 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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord, 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 the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed,  
 bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth. You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys, and taught them by the prophets. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal, and make us one in this community of faith and with your people throughout the world. Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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.

*The congregation is seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All who wish to receive the sacrament are invited to come forward as directed by the ushers. We provide communion with wine and wafers. Juice and gluten-free wafers are also available. The pastor will hand to you regular communion wafers; people who need gluten-free wafers are asked to pick up their own individually wrapped package on the tray the pastor is holding. Please pick up your wine or juice cup yourself from the tray the assisting minister is holding, and place your empty cup in the tray provided. Children and others who wish to receive a blessing rather than communion may cross their arms across their chest as they come forward. If you need to receive communion at your seat, please inform an usher.*

### LAMB OF GOD

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

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

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*“The Reign of God”*

Samuel McFarland  
 arr. James Biery

*We stand as we are able.*

## BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

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

## BLESSING

P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed  
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

Red ELW 705

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*"God of Grace and God of Glory"*

John Hughes  
arr. J. Bert Carlson

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