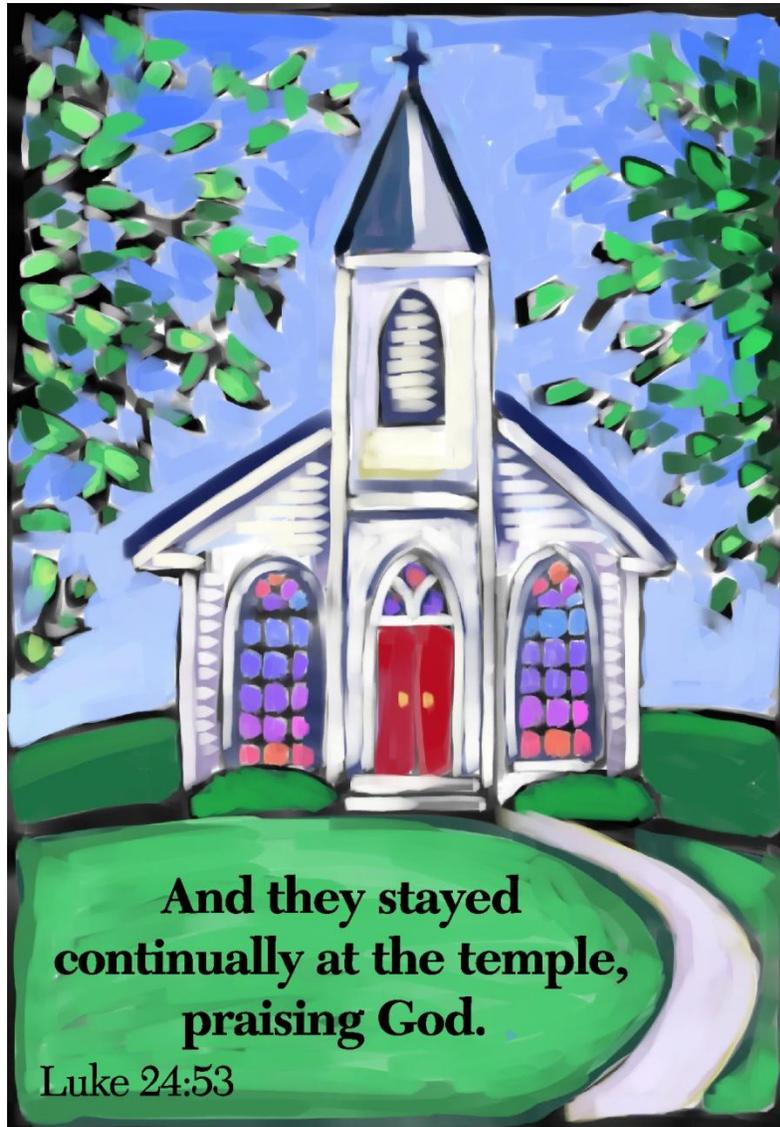


Service of the Word

Time after Pentecost ~ July 26, 2020



**Lutheran Church of the Foothills
Tucson, Arizona**

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!

*Assembly speaks responses in **dark print**.*

Welcome to Worship

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship ~ Holy Communion setting 10)

Responses *Responsive reading from Shir H-Lev, Song of the Heart Shabbat Prayerbook*

There is holiness,

when we strive to be true to the best we know.

There is holiness,

when we are kind to someone who cannot possibly be of service to us.

There is holiness,

when we promote family harmony.

There is holiness,

when we forget what divides us and remember what unites us.

There is holiness,

when we love, truly and honestly and unselfishly.

There is holiness,

when we remember the lonely and bring cheer into a dark corner.

There is holiness,

when we share our bread, our ideas, our enthusiasm.

There is holiness,

when we work together to shape a shared future.

There is holiness,

when we seek the Eternal who gave us the power to pray. Amen.

Greeting

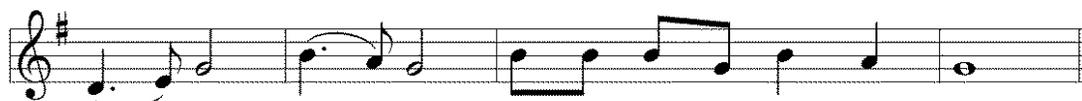
The rich presence of God, true fountain of grace, mercy and love, the beginning and end of all that is, be with you now and always.

Hymn "Jesus in the Morning"

(*This Far by Faith #167*)



1 Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus in the morn-ing, Je - sus in the noon-time;
2 Praise him, praise him, praise him in the morn-ing, praise him in the noon-time;
3 Love him, love him, love him in the morn-ing, love him in the noon-time;
4 Serve him, serve him, serve him in the morn-ing, serve him in the noon-time;
5 Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus in the morn-ing, Je - sus in the noon-time;



Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus when the sun goes down.
praise him, praise him, praise him when the sun goes down.
love him, love him, love him when the sun goes down.
serve him, serve him, serve him when the sun goes down.
Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus when the sun goes down.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: JESUS IN THE MORNING. African American spiritual

Prayer of the Day

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. Amen.

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.

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.**

Psalmody Psalm 119:129-136 *spoken responsively*

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**¹³⁰When 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.

**¹³²Turn 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.

**¹³⁴Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

**¹³⁶My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

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.

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.

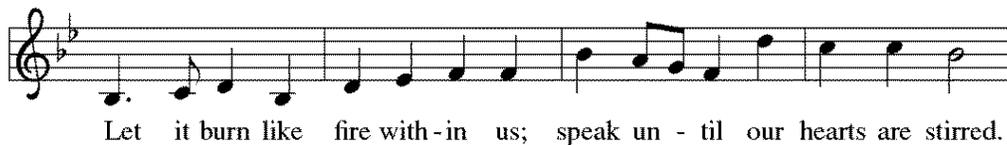
³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It 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



Holy 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.

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

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."

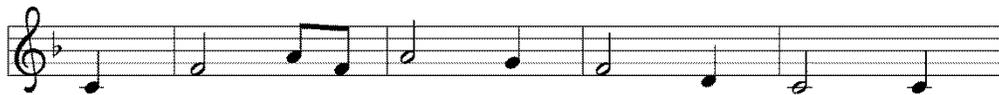
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

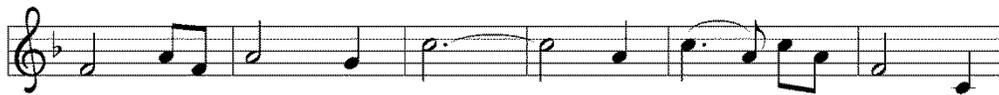
Pastor John Lillie

Hymn of the Day "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

(ELW #779)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Proclamation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

Let us proclaim our living 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

Let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

God who seeks for us, we thank you for planting your church throughout the world, deeply rooted in your grace. Bless those who lead us – our synod Bishop, Deborah, Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth, our congregation Council and all servants of your church. Lord, in your love,

we lift our prayer to you.

Healing God, draw to you those in distress or illness of any kind. We pray for: Warren Ahnell, Raquel Lespron, Jessica and Jacqueline Perry, Trish and Owen Jordahl, Kimberley Elliott, and all those affected by the Covid 19 virus. Lord, in your love,

we lift our prayer to you.

Comforting God, we pray all who mourn. Comfort the families and friends of those who have died from the Covid-19 virus. May their memory be blessed for the good they accomplished in their life over the course of many years or a few, for their diverse careers and callings and the joy they brought to their family and friends. Lord, in your love,

we lift our prayer to you.

Creating and caring God, we pray for the well-being of our community as we experience the disruption of our normal habits and patterns. Be with health care workers, maintenance workers, doctors, nurses and all who spend long days and hours tending to patients. Lord, in your love,

we lift our prayer to you.

Uplifting God, we pray for all those who are unemployed. Grant that they may have food on their tables, adequate resources and support, safe housing and health care for their families.

Strengthen their spirit. May they be shown dignity during this time. Lord, in your love,

we lift our prayer to you.

Living God, you have spoken through the saints, grant us communion with those who have gone before us who have been marked with baptism's sign of faith. Lord, in your love,

we lift our prayer to you.

The prayers conclude with all joining in July's Community Service emphasis of donations for the Youth Enrichment Support program through Interfaith Community Services:

God of love,

we give you thanks for all educational opportunities. Bless the work of the Youth Enrichment Support program that helps provide the tools and resources all students need for sound learning, new discovery and pursuit of knowledge. We ask in your name. Amen.

Our Offering of Gifts

Though today we are not able to share “in-person worship,” please remember your church and other charities in need at this time with your continued financial support.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,

ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A Litany for Spiritual Communion

As suggested by The Pastoral Center.

Lord our God, we wish we could gather today
with our parish community,
but we gather in separate places
out of love and concern for others.

You teach us that when two or three
are gathered in your name, you are there.

We pray:

Lord, bring us closer to you!

Christ Jesus, you are present in a special way
when bread and wine become your Body and Blood.

Since we cannot receive you in this way today,

We ask that you enter our hearts
so that we may receive you spiritually.

We pray:

Lord, bring us closer to you!

Lord our God, watch over your family
and keep us safe in your care, for all our hope is in you.

We pray:

Lord, bring us closer to you!

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Blessing

Go forth in the light of Christ. Go forth in the love of Christ. Go forth in the peace of Christ.
May the God of all favor, Father, Son ✝, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forevermore.

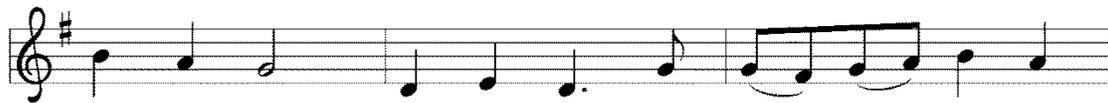
Amen.

Sending Hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory”

(ELW #705)



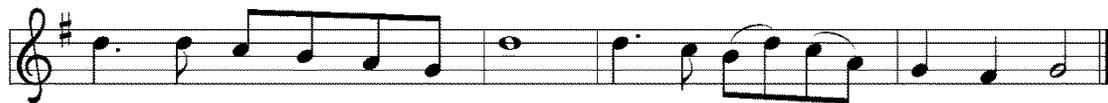
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



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, self - 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: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Dismissal

Go in peace. Proclaim the Gospel with your life!

Thanks be to God.

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