

Order of Service

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

July 26, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Opening Hymn: ELH 1 vs. 1, 2, 4

"Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"

Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

We are gathered all to hear Thee;

Let our hearts and souls be stirred

Now to seek and love and fear Thee,

By Thy teachings, sweet and holy,

Drawn from earth to love Thee solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight

Lie in deepest darkness shrouded

Till Thy Spirit breaks our night

With the beams of truth unclouded.

Thou alone to God canst win us;

Thou must work all good within us.

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Praise to Thee and adoration!
Grant that we Thy Word may trust,
And obtain true consolation
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Thy praises yonder.

The Invocation

P: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (sung) Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

P: Let us in true repentance make confession of our sins and receive the assurance of God's forgiveness in Christ.

C: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

P: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us, through the perfect obedience and willing suffering and death of Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregational Response: ELH 24 vs. 1

Lord, open Thou my heart to hear
And through Thy Word to me draw near;
Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain;
Let me Thy child and heir remain.

Prayer for the Day

P: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 78

P: O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

C: I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old

P: What we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children;

C: We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.

P: So the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born,

C: And they in turn would tell their children.

ALL: Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-11

(Just as the snow waters the earth so that it brings forth bread for today and seed *for another season, so God's Word always brings the results he desires.* Some results may not be seen immediately. The Word may meet with opposition or it may bring about conversion. Either way, God is glorified.)

¹⁰Just as the rain and the snow come down from the sky and do not return there unless they water the earth, make it give birth, and cause it to sprout, and it gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so it will be with my Word that goes forth from my mouth. It will not return to me empty. Rather, it will accomplish whatever I please, and it will succeed in the purpose for which I sent it.

The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®)

Congregational Response: ELH 234

We have a sure prophetic Word
By inspiration of the Lord;
**And though assailed on ev'ry hand,
Jehovah's Word shall ever stand.**

Abiding, steadfast, firm and sure
The teachings of the Word endure.
Blest he who trusts this steadfast Word;
His anchor holds in Christ, the Lord

8:00 a.m. Service: "Speak, O Lord"

Choir – vs. 1, 2 ~ Cong/Choir – vs. 3

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;

And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.

Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built

And the earth is filled with Your glory.

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Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:18-25

(The glories we will enjoy in heaven are so vast that, by comparison, all of our earthly sufferings are insignificant. So great is the anticipation of the Last Day that all creation expects to participate in the glorious freedom of the children of God.)

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees?

²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance. (EHV®)

Sunday Duet: *"It Is Well with My Soul"*

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; when sorrows, like sea billows,
roll: Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance
control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back
as a scroll, The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall
descend; Even so it is well with my soul.

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9

(God plants his Word in our heart; his Word alone can produce saving faith and bring forth the fruits of faith. *God's Word cannot fail.* Any failure lies in an unreceptive heart. *Therefore, our Lord Jesus urges us, "He who has ears, let him hear!"*)

That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting by the sea. ²A large crowd gathered around him. So he stepped into a boat and sat down, while all the people stood on the shore. ³He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen, a sower went out to sow. ⁴As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil. Immediately the seed sprang up, because the soil was not deep. ⁶But when the sun rose, the seed was scorched. Because it had no root, it

withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked it.
⁸But some seed fell on good ground and produced grain: some one hundred times, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear. (EHV®)

The Confession of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

Children's Sermonette

Sermon Hymn: ELH 230 vs. 1

“Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth”

Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth,
To Thy Word I now give heed;
Life and spirit Thy Word beareth,
All Thy Word is true indeed.

Death’s dread pow’r in me is rife;

Jesus, may Thy Word of Life

Fill my soul with love’s strong fervor

That I cling to Thee forever.

Sermon Text: Matthew 13:18-23

“Don’t Forget God’s Word!”

¹⁸“So listen carefully to the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the Evil One comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the seed that was sown along the path. ²⁰The seed that was sown on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he is not deeply rooted and does not endure. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. ²²The seed that was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worry of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it produces no fruit. ²³But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown.” (EHV®)

Hymn: ELH 230 vs. 3, 4

“Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth”

Lord, Thy words are waters living
Where I quench my thirsty need.
Lord, Thy words are bread life-giving;
On Thy words my soul doth feed.
Lord, Thy words shall be my light
Through death’s vale and dreary night;
Yea, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailing.

Precious Jesus, I beseech Thee,
May Thy words take root in me;
May this gift from heav’n enrich me
So that I bear fruit for Thee!
Take them never from my heart
Till I see Thee as Thou art,
When in heav’nly bliss and glory
I shall greet Thee and adore Thee.

Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, by Your grace we greet another day.

C: For Your protection during the night, we give You thanks.

P: For giving us the health and strength to assemble before You in the congregation of your redeemed, we praise Your holy name.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

P: Protect Your Church and sanctify it by your truth. May your Word be taught in its purity and your Sacraments be rightly administered. Grant to your Church faithful pastors who shall declare your truth with power and that they live according your will. Let your message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed truthfully to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

P: Look with favor on our nation. Prosper what is good among us and bring to nothing every evil counsel and purpose. Protect our leaders and help them to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice that we may live peaceful lives.

C: Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

P: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature, accident, and terrorism and spare us from the ravages of disease and the coronavirus.

C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

P: Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring our private petitions to you.

Silent Prayer

P: Gracious Father, we pray as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn: CW 324 *“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”*

Almighty God, your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heaven descend
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man This holy seed remove,
But give it root in every heart To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.

Whene'er the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving power may know.

Duet: *“A Closing Prayer”*

The time has come, O Lord, for us to leave this place;
Guide us and protect us, and lead us in your Grace.
Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways,
Help us share with others the things we've shared today.
May the peace of God, the Father, and the love of Christ, His Son,
Guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us, each one.
May the blessings of the Spirit fill us from within;
God bless us and return us to this fellowship once again. Amen.