

WELCOME

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SAT. JULY 29/SUN. JULY 30, 2023



“THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN”

AS WE GATHER

Jesus’ parables in today’s Gospel are a bit difficult to understand. In the first the kingdom of heaven is hidden, like treasure in a field. In the second it is extremely costly, like a large, perfect pearl. And we rejoice that we have found the Kingdom and value it above all. But what about that third parable, in which angels sort evil and righteous people like fish being burned or saved? Can we sinner-saints be confident as that day approaches? We can, for our inclusion in the Kingdom is not because of anything we have done. First, God chose us to be a people for His treasured possession, the Old Testament Reading tells us. Then, explains the Epistle, “Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us” (Romans 8:34). Our heavenly Father sent His Son to give us His own righteousness. For our Lord, incorporating us in the kingdom of heaven was something to die for.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “I Love Your Kingdom, Lord” *LSB 651*

1. I love Your kingdom, Lord,

**The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.**

**2. Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.**

**3. I love Your Church, O God,
Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.**

**4. For them my tears shall fall;
For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n
Till toils and cares shall end.**

**5. Sure as Your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav'n.**

**Timothy Dwight, 1752–1817, alt. Public domain
ST. THOMAS S M Ps. 26:8; Col. 3:15–16; Eph. 6:18; Is. 30:19**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

KYRIE



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (LSB 802, Sts. 1 & 4)

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
‘Tis only the splendor of light that hides Thee.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 7:6–9 (In His steadfast love, God keeps His promises.)*

⁶“For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out

of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:28–39 (All things work together for those who love God.)*

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those 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 among many brothers. 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 shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from

the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded 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 sure 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

(LSB p. 205)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:44–52 (The parables of the hidden treasure, pearl of great price, and catch of fish)*

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. 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, ⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, 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 gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “How Wide the Love of Christ”
LSB 535

1. How wide the love of Christ!

**It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity
Within its broad embrace.**

2. How long the love of Christ!

**Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound
In everlasting peace.**

**3. How high the love of Christ!
Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives
Unmeasured mercy pours.**

**4. How deep the love of Christ,
Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands
All human pain and loss.**

**5. All praise to You, O Christ,
For love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space
With endless life and light!**

**Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007 © 1997
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SERMON

*(Sat.) Rev. Paul Muther
(Sun.) Rev. Hesham Shehab*

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who kept all Your gracious promises, who died for the sins of the whole world, and from whom nothing in all creation can separate us. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of

heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

(LSB page 208)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: **“Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: **“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI “Worthy Is The Lamb”

**Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive:
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
Honor and glory and blessing!
Worthy is the Lamb,
Worthy is the Lamb,
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
Worthy is the Lamb!**

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+DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION+

By communing, a person says publicly that they -

- are baptized and confirmed***
- believe Christ's words***
- repent of their sins***
- fully agree with all that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches.***

How to receive –

- anyone may come to the altar but keep hands folded if not receiving Communion*
- the center of the tray has a cup with just a drop of wine for those who must minimize alcohol*
- smile, exude your joy, but keep a reverent demeanor as others commune*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “I Stand Amazed”

**I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how he could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.**

**Refrain:
How marvelous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be;
How marvelous! How wonderful!
Is my Savior's love for me!**

**For me it was in the garden
He prayed, "Not my will, but thine;"
He had no tears for his own griefs,
But sweat drops of blood for mine. [Refrain]**

**He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them his very own;
He bore the burden to Calv'ry,
And suffered and died alone. [Refrain]**

**When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
'Twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me. [Refrain]**

Charles H. Gabriel

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POST-COMMUNION HYMN

(LSB 632)

**O Jesus, Blessed Lord to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, Lord our God, that You have again assured us of inclusion in the kingdom of heaven by giving us Your Son's body and blood to strengthen our faith.

As we depart, grant that in our words and actions we might show forth the invisible, priceless kingdom of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”
LSB 917, Sts. 1,2,4

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

***3. 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.**

**4. 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.**

**John Ellerton, 1826–93 Public domain
ELLERS 10 10 10 10 Num. 6:22–26; John 16:33; Ps. 85:8; 2 Cor. 4:6**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.

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- **GOD EITHER MADE EVERYTHING OR YOU ARE WASTING YOUR TIME AT THIS CHURCH!**

Maybe the most dangerous falsehood out there is that people came into existence randomly. One of the top creation scientists in the country is coming right here to Hope Lutheran on this Friday, August 4th, at 7:00 to help us understand the arguments between evolution and divine creation. Do not miss hearing Dr. Rob Carter that night. Bring family, neighbors, skeptics and believers. Dr. Carter will deal with all questions at the end of his presentation.

- **PLASTIC RECYCLING:** Hope is collecting clean plastic bags of all types by the mailboxes. When we reach our goal, we will receive a free park bench. Any questions, please see Mary Ann.

- **SHARING CENTER:** The Sharing Center appreciates our volunteers and donations. Since school is out, we are now focusing on "kid-friendly" foods. In particular, peanut butter, jelly, pudding/jello/fruit snack packs, microwavable pull-tab soups/chili and other healthy snacks are needed. There is still a great need of Summer clothing for children (birth through teen) and light-weight blankets.

- Please call (757-831-6948) or e-mail Pastor Oswald (oswald1@charter.net) with your prayer requests or any other concerns.
- Preacher: (Sat.) Rev. Paul Muther
(Sun.) Rev. Hesham Shehab
- Liturgist (Sun.) Rev. Maurice Lind, Pastor Emeritus
- Sat. Organist: Lina Schaal
- Sun. Organist: George Kelm
- Ensemble Coordinator: Tabra Gonski
- A/V Team: Stan & Cheryl Grey, Josh Walton
Brian & Amanda Larie

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

Reader: Wayne Olsen
 Communion: Paul Trettin
 Acolyte: Grace Urban
 Ushers: John & Jaclyn Tueting
 Fellowship: Peggy Tueting

NEXT WEEK

Reader: Gary Estes
 Communion: Paul Trettin
 Acolyte: Amanda Siemers
 Ushers: Brian Larie & Kyle Wachholder
 Fellowship: Tami Voigt

BIRTHDAY

8/5 Grace Urban

ANNIVERSARY

8/2 Peter & Tami Voigt

Opportunities to Serve the Lord This Week

7/31/23 – 8/6/23

Wednesday: 5:30pm Confirmation Class

Thursday: 8:00am Men's Breakfast

9:30am Elders' Meeting

Friday: 7:00pm Creation Presentation

Saturday: 9:30am Worship Service

Sunday: 9:00am Worship Service

10:20am Bible Study