

July 23, 2023
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

St. Luke Lutheran Church
35 Wilson Ave, PO Box 338; Gilbertsville, PA 19525

PRELUDE

O Worship the King

setting, Raymond Haan; ©1985 Sacred Music Press

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 842 Oh, Worship the King

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.; Music: William Croft, 1678-1727.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 516 Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

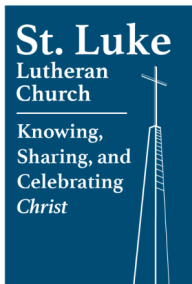
Text: John Cawood, 1775-1852, alt.; Music: J. Day, Psalter, 1562.

SENDING HYMN:

ELW 679 For the Fruit of All Creation

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, ©1970 Hope Publishing Company; Music:
Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958.

St. Luke Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking people and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.



Lincoln Noecker,
Director of Music

Valerie Schlegel
Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

Marsha Staub,
Office Administrator

Executive Officers:

Connie Hukari, President
Dave Janzow, Vice President
Pam Reifsnyder, Secretary
Scott Moyer, Treasurer

Congregational Council:

John Bealer
Donna Biehl
Donna Conrad
Michael Ferraro

Connie Hukari
Dave Janzow
Tim Kenna
Bonnie Kuser
Pam Reifsnyder
Tom Undercuffler
Joe Vendetti

stlukegilbertsville.org
610-367-9738

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

During the prelude, please use this time to quietly allow God to open your heart to his blessed presence.

WELCOME

Please rise in body or spirit.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God,
most merciful judge,
you care for your children with firmness and compassion.
By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom,
that we may be rooted in the way of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

A reading from Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent
people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶**Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your
handmaid.**

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it
and be put to shame;
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING:

A reading from Romans 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for

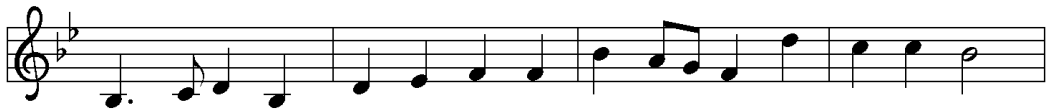
the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY ***Almighty God, Your Word is Cast*** ***ELW 516***

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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.**

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom

and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed including Birgitta of Sweden, whom the church commemorates today, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

PEACE

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

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of field and forest, sea, and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

Refrain

Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -

ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O

God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O

Rul - er of all the na-tions. Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and

Refrain

sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

bles-sed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

Refrain

praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

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

Please rise in body and spirit.

BLESSING

Church, receive this blessing.

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.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Sundayandseasons.com

LECTIONARY FOR JULY 24-29

Monday – Psalm 75; Nahum 1:1-13; Revelation 14:12-20

Tuesday – Psalm 75; Zephaniah 3:1-13; Galatians 4:21—5:1

Wednesday – Psalm 75; Daniel 12:1-13; Matthew 12:15-21

Thursday – Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 1:28-37; 1 Corinthians 4:14-20

Friday – Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 1:38-48; Acts 7:44-53

Saturday - Psalm 119:129-136; 1 Kings 2:1-4; Matthew 12:38-42

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Kathy Billger

Message: Joe Vendetti

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Dave Janzow

Audio Video: Ron Hukari

Ushers: Larry Billger, Terry Conrad

Sacristan: Donna Biehl

PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:

- Cheryl Homa, cancer (sister of Linda Fronheiser, Joanne Rissell)
- Carly Little, daughter of Pam Zeigenfuse & Todd Little, extreme case of Mono
- Chris, recovering from a fall (friend of Pam Ferraro)

PRAYERS FOR those in grief:

- Family & friends of Bill Yanalavage (friend of the Hukaris)
- Family & friends of Rev. Wanda Craner (friend of Connie Hukari)

PRAYERS FOR those Needing Continued Prayers:

Bob Arobone

Tom Bucks

Kristopher Yoder

Jalen Gray

Larry Kuser

Sharon Smith

Bonnie Ritter

PRAYERS FOR those at home:

Charles & Gloria Christman

Jean & Bill Christy

Marie Geiger

Paul McFarland

Ruth Nice

Helen Penketh

Clayton & Ann Rhoads

Cookie Stasik

IN OUR PRAYERS: This morning in our prayers we remember the saints whose commemorations fall during this week:

July 23 Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, 1373

July 25 JAMES, APOSTLE

July 28 Johann Sebastian Bach, 1750; Heinrich Schütz, 1672; George Frederick Handel, 1759, musicians

July 29 Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany; Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, 1030

Sponsors:

The bulletins are sponsored by Pam & Mike Ferraro for the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

Suitcases Needed

Are you going on vacation only to discover you need a new suitcase? Please bring your old ones to church. They will go to Safe Berks, the shelter for abused women. Thank you!

Date	Week of June July 23-29	Location
Sunday, July 23 8th Sunday after Pentecost	9:30 am Worship	Nave
Tuesday, July 25	7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Memorial Hall
Wednesday, July 26	CCR Shopping 9:00 to Noon	CCR
Friday, July 28	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
Worship Leaders	Sunday, July 30	Sunday, August 6
Lector	David Janzow	Joe Vendetti
Ushers	Dave Girton, Ron Hukari	Gary Fronheiser, Ron Hukari
Audio Video	Ron Ball	Ron Hukari
Office Volunteer	Cindy Bealer (July 27)	Pat Hallman (Aug. 3)
Sacristan	Donna Biehl	Merrie Gephart

Worship and Stewardship			
<u>Our June Commitment</u>	<u>Our Generosity</u>	<u>Overage/Shortfall</u>	
Budget \$13,064	\$6,557	-\$6,507	
Mission Support \$544	\$ 437	-\$ 107	



READER

Pentecost 8

- Today is the **eighth** Sunday after Pentecost.
- The symbol for Pentecost on this page is a **tree by a road**.
- The tree helps us think about **growing** in faith.
- The road shows us that life with God is a **journey**.

Hit the Road

In life, we travel toward our goals. What are your goals? Draw yourself on the road and write or draw about your goals in the spaces above the road. Remember that God is always with you on this journey.



First Fruits

In Romans, Paul tells us that we only have the “first fruits” of the good things God will do. This means that God has a lot more to give to the world.

All fruits begin as a small seed. Draw a line matching the fruit to its seed.



What's the Difference?

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about deciding between good and bad. He uses plants as symbols for his story.

Solve the math problems to find out which plants Jesus calls good and which plants he calls bad.

GOOD:

$3 + 3 \quad 6 - 5 \quad 5 \times 2 \quad 2 + 3 \quad 8 - 4$

BAD:

$10 - 4$ $9 + 1$ $12 - 2$ $4 \div 2$



KEY:

A = 5

D = 2

E = 10

$$H = 1$$

$T = 4$

$$W = 6$$