

July 26, 2020

9:15 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

ABOUT THE DAY: *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!*

GATHERING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

All who are able are invited to stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✚ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN: *Gather Us In p. 12 (sung by Jan Kistler)*

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.
All may be seated*

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." *The word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136 (read responsively – congregation reads bold)

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

¹²⁹Your de- | crees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

¹³⁰**When 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.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gra- | cious 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.

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

¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My 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. *The word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

All who are able are invited to stand

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE 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.

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

All may be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

All who are able are invited to stand

HYMN: God, When Human Bonds are Broken p. 13 (sung by Jan Kistler)

APOSTLES' CREED

In the words of the Apostles' Creed, let us confess our 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 INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick *especially Dan, George, Clint, Doug, Jennifer, Obie, Lillian, Arlene, Carol, Linda, Mike, Dorothy, Paula.* Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those celebrating birthdays this week. May they continue to grow in faith as they grow in years, *especially Ella, Erik, Barbara, Tom Michael, Carla, Kevin, Nancy, Adam, Braden, Nicholas, Loretta, Shirley.* Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those celebrating anniversaries this week. May they be bound together by your love, now and forever *especially Matthew & Melissa, Ingrid & Matt*. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, as our shepherd, guide the ministries of all our sisters and brothers in Christ in congregations who continue to do your work. Through your Holy Spirit provide courage, perseverance and resources to those who speak your word of truth and love. We give thanks this day for our sisters and brothers united through you. We pray especially for the congregation of Holy Trinity Northampton. May they be filled with your Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as our Lord 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

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Sent Forth by God's Blessing p. 14* (sung by Jan Kistler)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of those who lost their lives from Covid-19, in honor of those who survived, in thanks to the essential workers who risk their lives each day, to Pastor Dody and all those who work behind the scenes to bring us our services each week, and to those who put all the pieces in place for us to worship here today.

THANK YOU to Jan Kistler for sharing her vocal talents with us this morning!

Our Staff

The Rev. Dody S. Siegfried, Pastor
The Rev. Jerel Gade, Visitation Pastor
Jamie Edelman, Director of Education & Youth
Monica Unangst, Church Administrator
Susan Hartney, Organist/Choir Director
& Director of Bell Choirs
Jan Kistler, Asst. Organist
& Canon Choir Director
Marlene Peters, Cherub Choir Director
Barbara Carinci, Income-Expense Coordinator
Ann Kline, Sexton

Say a Prayer & Send a Card & Pay a Visit

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Dan, George, Clint, Doug, Jennifer, Obie, Lillian, Arlene, Carol, Linda, Mike, Dorothy, Paula

Birthdays this week:

Ella, Erik, Barbara, Tom, Michael, Carla, Kevin, Nancy, Adam, Braden, Nicholas, Loretta, Shirley

Anniversaries this week:

Matthew & Melissa, Ingrid & Matt

As most of you know, Pastor Jerel Gade has retired from St. Peter's Union Church. We are happy that he will continue as Jordan's visitation for the immediate future. If you would like to send your good wishes on his retirement, you can send cards and messages to him at 2758 Sequoia Dr., Macungie PA 18062

2020 SPONSORSHIPS

Altar Flowers: Aug. 23, 30; Sept. 6; October 11, 18, 25; Nov. 1; Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27

To sponsor the bulletin or EPP ad, please contact Donna for available dates

HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SPONSORSHIPS: Contact Donna Hahn at 610-395-0613 or dhahn16@gmail.com with your choice of dates(s) and sponsorships(s). **Please indicate when reserving your date whether you wish to pick up the flowers after the 10:30 service or want them taken to shut-ins.** If no preference is given, flowers will be taken to shut-ins.

Altar flowers are \$40. Bulletins are \$20. Checks may be made payable to JELC and either mailed or dropped in the offering plate.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY: Flowers and other sponsorships may be reserved no earlier than one year from the chosen date. If you wish to reserve the same weekend for the following year, you may do so the day after the current year's sponsorship. No dates will be held; the first request for a date (within the one year limit) will be taken regardless of the previous year's sponsor.

**Treasurer's Report
for June 2020**

	Month	YTD	Budget Amounts	
			Month	YTD
Income:				
Operating Income	\$ 29,283.00	\$ 152,130.00	\$ 28,950.00	\$ 173,700.00
Benevolence	\$ 807.00	\$ 7,677.00	\$ 1,667.00	\$ 10,002.00
Property	\$ 1,960.00	\$ 14,171.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 15,000.00
Deficit Reduction	\$ 503.00	\$ 4,987.00	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 32,553.00	\$ 178,965.00	\$ 33,117.00	\$ 198,702.00
Expenses:				
Administration	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 8,325.00	\$ 1,985.00	\$ 11,910.00
Ministries	\$ 822.00	\$ 3,873.00	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 8,622.00
Payroll	\$ 21,806.00	\$ 128,833.00	\$ 22,049.00	\$ 132,294.00
Property-Utilities, grounds, etc	\$ 8,902.00	\$ 42,909.00	\$ 7,942.00	\$ 47,652.00
Benevolence	\$ 1,767.00	\$ 10,650.00	\$ 1,917.00	\$ 11,502.00
Total Expenses	\$ 35,172.00	\$ 194,590.00	\$ 35,330.00	\$ 211,980.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (2,619.00)	\$ (15,625.00)	\$ (2,213.00)	\$ (13,278.00)

We are now receiving material from Truist for the next phase of the PPP SBA process where we apply for the loan forgiveness currently planned for the mid- to late-July timeframe. So, we are currently tracking our employee payroll expenses and utilities (electric & oil), which are being paid for through PPP SBA loan funds. We are required to track all these expenses separately for the necessary documentation in our forgiveness application with Truist Bank to show that we have met qualifications for possible forgiveness and a conversion to a grant.

In this month's Treasurer's Report, the dollar amounts show the full expenses associated with Payroll and the Property-Utilities, grounds, etc. in the expenses section of the report. These expenses are still being tracked separately from our normal income and expense records using features of our PowerChurch software. The May Treasurer's Report shows a deficit for the YTD (year to date) a little over (\$ 13,000.). Future Treasurer's Reports (June & July) will NOT be reporting any surplus amounts due to the \$ 47,400. SBA Loan, since this amount was deposited into our Operating Income as a balance adjustment.

ATTENDANCE – 7/19/20 – 54 Log-ons

Church Office Hours: The office is still open! Normal hours (these days!) are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon, to take your phone calls, drop off your offering envelopes, etc. Every effort will be made to do so contact-free.

Assistance for Members: We have a team of volunteers standing by who are willing to run errands, pick up groceries or prescriptions, etc. for those who may be unable or just should not go out. Please call the church office and we will get you in touch with someone who can help.

**We are need of readers for our upcoming return to IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES beginning July 26th.
Thanks to Shirley Schleicher for serving as our lector this morning!**

Food Pantry: We are still in need of food donations. Drop off during office hours. Monetary donations are welcome, also, and will purchase 3 to 4 times as much food for the money!

Worship Services: will resume in the Family Center beginning Sunday, July 26th, at 9:15 a.m. Please read the letter you received either by mail or email for important information and to learn about the safety measures that have been put into place for your protection. For those who feel the need to continue remaining at home, worship services will still be live-streamed on ZOOM.

Mask Bands: We have crocheted/knitted mask extenders available for anyone who might need one, or if you know anyone in the medical profession who wears masked daily and could use some, please contact the church office.

Haven House of Allentown is in desperate need of cloth masks. Their clients (mental health population) are uncomfortable in disposable masks- cloth needed. Masks can be dropped to Haven House 1411 Union Blvd. Allentown PA or Holy Trinity Memorial of Catasauqua. Looking for a Jordan member to coordinate a collection of these much-needed masks. Talk to Pr. Dody or call the church office.

*Thank
You!*

...from Lucille Laudenslager for the many beautiful birthday cards and kind written notes. It is greatly appreciated!

We send our gratitude to those who continue to faithfully make their offerings so that we may be ready, unafraid and able to return to regular ministry when life gets back to normal!

Jordan is pleased to offer electronic giving options to our members. Members can make a one-time donation, or establish a recurring giving profile through the convenience of their computer or mobile phone. We highly recommend that at this time you prayerfully consider using online giving.

Here is how you sign up:

WEBSITE – go to www.jordanlutheran.org click on the **SUPPORT** tab, then **Electronic Giving** and you will be offered two options to set up your electronic giving

GIVE+ PLUS (a free, secure phone app) download this free app to your mobile phone, search by zip code 18069 and when you see Jordan, follow the instructions to make your donation.

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

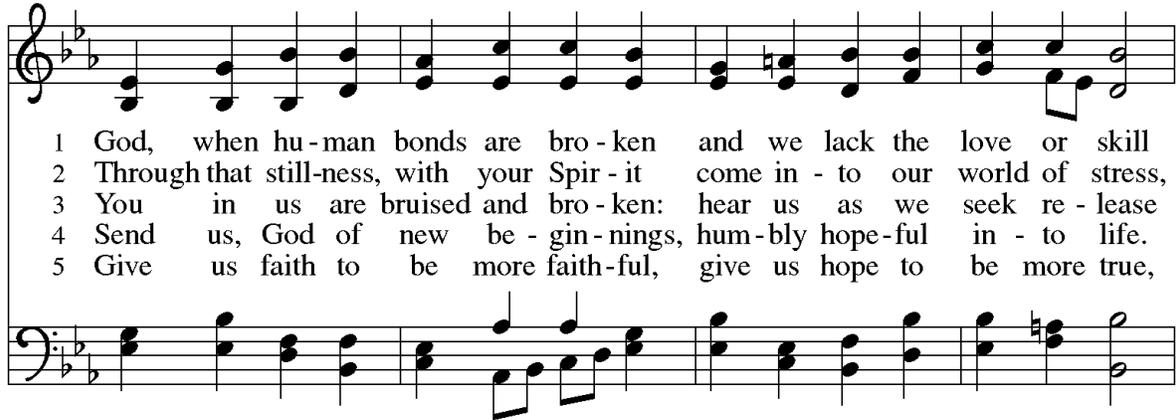
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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