

July 30, 2023 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 a.m. Worship & Healing Service

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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!

BELL ANNOUNCEMENTS

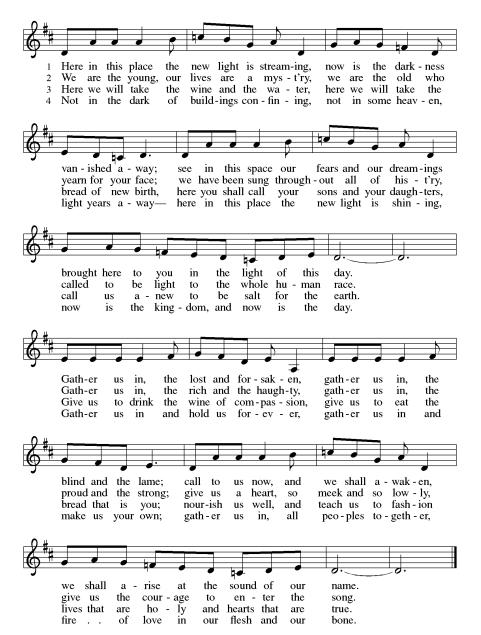
PRELUDE: On Eagles' Wings

-by Michael Joncas, setting by Marilyn Biery

All who are able are invited to stand

GATHERING SONG

Gather Us In



1

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.

You are the treasured people of the Lord,

A people holy to the Lord our God.

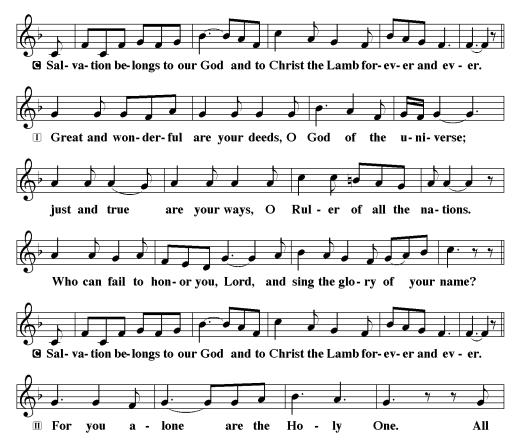
Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

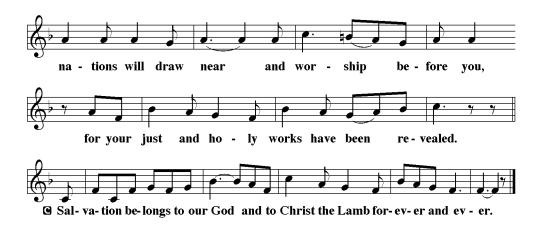
Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

One does not live by bread alone,

But by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

SCRIPTURE SONG





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

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- ¹ crees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with ¹ all my heart.
¹³⁰When your word is opened ¹ it gives light; it gives understanding ¹ to the simple.
¹³¹I open my ¹ mouth and pant because I long for ¹ your commandments.
¹³²Turn to me and be gra- ¹ cious to me, as you always do to those who ¹ love your name.
¹³³Order my footsteps ¹ in your word; let no iniquity have dominion ¹ over me.
¹³⁴Rescue me from those ¹ who oppress me, and I will keep ¹ your commandments.
¹³⁵Let your face shine up- ¹ on your servant and teach ¹ me your statutes.
¹³⁶My eves shed ¹ 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

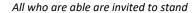
family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

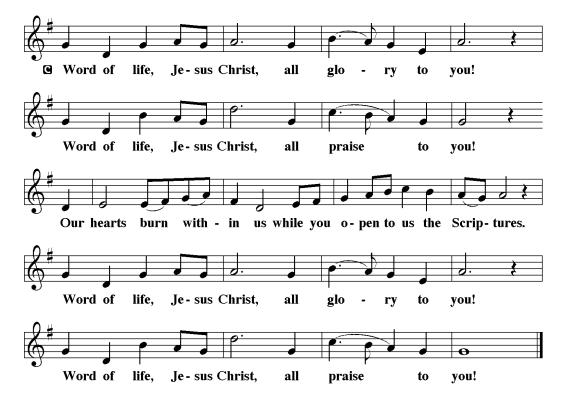
³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It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





GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

SERMON

All who are able are invited to stand

Be Thou My Vision



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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.

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness and remission of all our sins. **Amen.**

PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

PRAYER

All may be seated

OFFERING: *Sing and Shout Together, Children* -Larry Hahn, vocal soloist - words and music by Mary McDonald, incorporating "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

All who are able are invited to stand

OFFERTORY



Let us pray. 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.**

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.

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick *especially Helen*, *Susan*, *Gladys*, *Rachelle*, *Kim*, *Vanessa*, *Dean*, *Lester*, *Nat*, *Bob*, *Lori*, *Lisa*, *Carol*, *Linda*, *Janie*, *Jan*, *Richard*, *Kim*, *Bethany*, *Shiloh Faye*, *Jon*, *Barry*, *Rumpun*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great**.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week. May they continue to grow in faith as they grow in years, *especially Nancy, Spencer, Braden, Shirley, Clarence, David, Doug, James, Emily, Isaac, Julianna, Leroy*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those celebrating anniversaries this week. May they be bound together by your love, now and forever, *especially Dennis & Debra, Susan & Thomas.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ in neighboring congregations. May your light shine brightly for all, sharing in your love and your peace that surpasses all understanding. We pray especially for Morganland, Lowhill Twp. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.**

SERVICE of HEALING

Introduction

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing – with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Laying on of Hands & Anointing

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

Hymns: (sung during laying on of hands & healing)

Sing twice

Come, Bring Your Burdens



Text: South African; English text Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick Music: WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO, South African melody; arr. Welile Sigabi English text and arr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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When Our World Is Rent by Violence



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In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, receive this oil as a sign of forgiveness and healing in Jesus Christ. May you be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.

Amen.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands, and the presiding minister continues.

Let us pray. Living God, through the laying on the hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing for Healing

The presiding minister concludes the order for healing.

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave 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

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed \oplus bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932 DISMISSAL Go in peace. Share the harvest. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Shepherd Song

-by Domenico Scarlatti, arr. Steven Scott



Extending the deep and heartfelt sympathy of the congregation to the family and friends of:

Kenneth Benner, 63, who died on July 22nd. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Dianne, and son Nathan. He was a member of the Jordaniers Bowling Team. The service was yesterday.

Olive Wood, 92, who died on July 23rd. She is survived by her son, John Weremedic and grandson, Matthew Weremedic. The service was last Wednesday.

David Siegfried, 80, who died on July 24th. He was the brother of Jim Siegfried. The service was last Friday.

Please remember Kenneth, Olive and David and their loved ones in your prayers.



Jordan Lutheran Church welcomes all children ages 3-11 to join our Sunday school classes in the Fall for an hour of learning about Jesus and our awesome God! Our teachers and volunteers have created a fun and safe environment for our kiddos to listen to Bible stories, create fun art and craft activities, sing songs and play games.

Check out all the fun events and happenings we have planned for the second half of 2023! Beginning with the start of Sunday School in September and including events planned right through Christmas. We hope you will join us!

Rally Day, September 10, 2023 (kick-off for Sunday School)

Inviting children ages 4 - 11 to take 'A Journey Through the Books of the Bible." Strap on your backpack and together we'll take a God-sighting journey through the Books of the Bible. We'll be heading for Bethlehem, Nazareth, Egypt, Samaria, Bethany and many other places to see where Jesus was born, grew up and preached. Have your backpack blessed during worship today!

Sunday, September 10th - A "Backyard Picnic" has been scheduled for our youth, mentors, and Sunday School teachers, noon – 3 pm. We'll enjoy a lunch and play a few fun outdoor games.

Friday, October 13th – Friday the 13th the youth will enjoy a night of "Glow Golf" at Bear Rock Junction. They also can enjoy walk through a corn maze including a scavenger hunt, a hayride, or race along go-kart tracks, all for an extra fee. Please plan to meet at 6 p.m. for a night of glow golf.

Sunday, October 15th - GWOH. The youth are inviting anyone interested in gift-wrapping empty boxes during God's Work Our Hands. The boxes will be used for Christmas gifts for the Holiday Hope Chest gift boxes for children.

Saturday, October 28th – 'Fall Fest for the Family' - Jordan families and friends are invited for hot dogs and hot chocolate, while painting pumpkins, face-painting, bobbing for apples, kids games, and a pie-baking and eating contest for youth and adults. Please plan to join together at 5 pm. for a fun night for the whole family.

Sunday, November 5th – Fall Basket Social. Celebrate the harvest season creating thoughtful gift baskets for our community event. Browsing baskets begins at noon, drawing at 4:00 p.m. Food and drinks will be available. More details to come!

Sunday, December 3rd – Salt dough ornament making. Time to 'prepare' for the holidays making a few ornaments, noon - 2 pm. Everyone invited.

Saturday, December 16th – Family Christmas Caroling. All ages are invited to gather together to stroll through Parkland Manor and Heather Glen sharing our beloved Christmas carols and a few fun children's Christmas songs, from 2 – 4 pm. Refreshments to follow at church in the Memory Room.

Sunday, December 17th - Youth and Children's Christmas Program, during the 9:15 am worship service.

Additional information about our Fall classes, including a registration form for Sunday School, can be found on our website <u>https://www.jordanlutheran.org/sunday-school.html</u>. Or contact Steph Derstine <u>jordandff@ptd.net</u>



Masks are a PERSONAL PREFERENCE at Jordan

The Lord's Table at Jordan Church is an open table. If you are a baptized Christian of any church, believe in the Lord's presence in the sacrament and have received the sacrament before, you are welcome to receive with us. If you are not able to receive, please come forward for a pastoral blessing. To come forward, simply follow the direction of the ushers. **Distribution method** is noted in the order for worship.

ALTAR DISTRIBUTION: As you come forward, please take an empty cup with you to the altar rail. If you choose not to consume wine, grape juice is available. Come to the altar rail without a glass and a communion assistant will offer you the grape juice in a pre-filled glass.

INTINCTION DISTRIBUTION: Come forward and receive a wafer. Then dip it into either the wine (the cup in the center of the bread plate) or the grape juice (in the separate cup held by the second assistant). If you want additional time at the altar, please step to center of the altar rail out of the flow of other worshippers. You are invited to kneel if you wish.

Gluten-free wafers are available – please indicate your need to the communion assistant.

You are asked to fill out **communion cards** clearly and completely, one card per person. Visitors are asked to fill out the address of their home church (if you identify with one) so we may forward the card there. Take a moment also before leaving to sign our guest book, located in the entrance area.

If it is necessary to **leave the sanctuary** during worship, please refrain, if possible, from doing so during the reading of scripture or the Eucharistic prayers so as not to distract other worshipers.

The use of *electronic devices* during worship is discouraged. Please turn off cell phones or set to vibrate before the start of the service.

Hearing assistance is available for members and visitors to Jordan. Please see an usher to arrange to use a receiver. A Koala Bear *baby changing station* is located in the handicapped restroom across from the church offices (in the new section). Children's welcome bags and bulletins are located in the narthex. Please ask ushers for help.

Restrooms are located through the left side doors of the chancel; then left through the french doors; restrooms located in the foyer on the right.

Children in grade 9 and younger are asked to remain in the Memory Room when consuming refreshments during the fellowship hours.

Please be sensitive to the fact that many people are allergic to or bothered by strong scents (perfume, aftershave, etc.), particularly when many people are gathered closely together, as for worship services.

For Parents of young children: We are grateful that God has blessed Jordan with so many young children. Worshiping with young children is a special privilege and joy for all of us. We enjoy the sounds of children in our worship. However, if you sense the need for a "calming break" feel free to take him/her to the Memory Room or Nursery (located through the doors on the left side of the altar) where you can continue to hear and be involved in the worship.

If you are interested in *becoming a member of Jordan*, please speak with the pastor following the service or call the church office (610-395-5912).

Announcements for the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office before 10:00 a.m. on Thursday. Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of the month.