

JULY 26, 2020

WELCOMING WORD *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 treasure pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we see the riches of God's reign the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

C: The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

L: With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.

C: Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.

L: Keep my steps steady according to your promise,

C: and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

OPENING HYMN #746 (Blue) *Day by Day*

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
Where at last I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
Till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin,

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: 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 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.

P: Beloved of God, by the 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 by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Beloved and sovereign God,

C: through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice of mercy, By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 3:5-12 ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you."⁶ And 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."⁷ And 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.⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.⁹ Give 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?"¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.¹¹ God 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,¹² I 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.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:26-39 ²⁶Likewise the 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.²⁷ And 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.²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, 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 within a large family.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 are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?³² He 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?³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who 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.³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted 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 convinced 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 ³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it 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."³³ He 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;⁴⁶ on 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;⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad."⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and 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."⁵² And 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."

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #458 *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

Jesus priceless treasure, Source of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me: Ah, how long I've panted,
And my heart has fainted, Thirsting Lord for Thee!
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb; I will suffer nought to hide thee,
Nought I ask beside thee.

In thine arm I rest me; Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here. Though the earth be shaking,
Ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Sin and hell in conflict fell with their bitter storms assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

Hence, all fears and sadness, For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in. Those who love the Father,
Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Still in thee lies purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERTORY PRAYER Of all the gifts which you have given us, we treasure your Holy Spirit, O God. In gratitude for guidance and discernment, we offer these tributes before you and ask your blessing. May our lives be a blessing to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

L: 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,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: 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, especially as they seek solutions to the current pandemic. Help us to treasure the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: 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...) Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: 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.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you ; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

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. 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 *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #776 (Blue) *Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 26, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 119:121-128, In praise of God's Law

Tuesday, 1 Kings 4:29-34, Solomon's Wisdom

Wednesday, Proverbs 1:1-7;20-33, The Call of Wisdom

Thursday, Psalm 145:8-9; 14-21, The Greatness and Goodness of God

Friday, Isaiah 51:17-23, Call for repentance

Saturday, Isaiah 44:1-5, God's Blessings on Israel

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "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." **Matthew 13:44** 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.

- When have you been surprised by the growth of a small act to have great impact?
- Do you tend to just 'blend in' like flour to the mix, or by your presence do you change your surroundings like yeast?
- Parables often challenge us to think of what is most valuable. What are you willing to invest in the kingdom of heaven?

PRAY: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice of mercy, By your Spirit, give us our wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

BLESS: May you discover the kingdom at work all around you. Amen!



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Helen Kahl
Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Helen Martinson
Makenzee Smith
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Martha Hartman
Jeannie U'Ren
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Irene Bruflat
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)

John Conrad (Kathy Conrad's son)
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)
Sammy Peede (nephew of Kari and Dan Hustad)
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Dorothy Jelle
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Ruth Ann Nemet
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)

