

Matthew 13:34 WEB

*Jesus spoke all these things in parables to the multitudes;
and without a parable, he didn't speak to them,*

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

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Portions from *Sundays & Seasons 2023*

Setting Four

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!

Jays & Concerns

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C. Amen

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P. Merciful God,

C. we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen

P. Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

C. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Gather Us In

ELW 532

The Greeting

P. From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C. And also with you.

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



All
1 Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray

C. 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

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." 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. 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. 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. 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?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 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, 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."

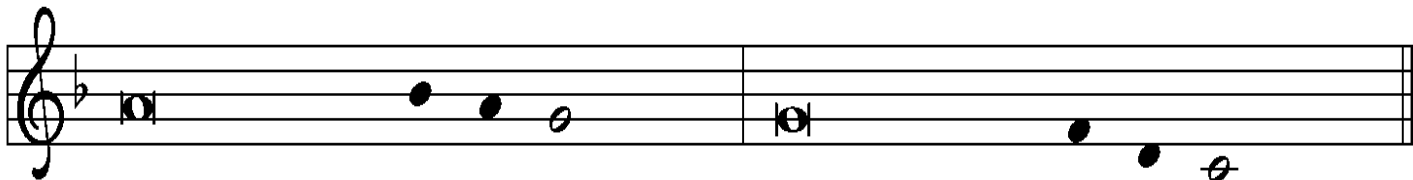
L. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 119:129-136 (ELW tone 4)

sung responsively



Your de-^l crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with ^l all my heart.

**When your word is opened ^l it gives light;
it gives understanding ^l to the simple.**

I open my ^l mouth and pant
because I long for ^l your commandments.

**Turn to me and be gra-^l cious to me,
as you always do to those who ^l love your name.**

Order my footsteps ^l in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion ^l over me.

**Rescue me from those ^l who oppress me,
and I will keep ^l your commandments.**

Let your face shine up-^l on your servant
and teach ^l me your statutes.

**My eyes shed ^l streams of tears,
because people do not ^l keep your teaching.**

Second Reading

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. 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.



We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 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. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 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? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that 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 our Lord.

L. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



P. The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter thirteen.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 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.”

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.”



“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.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” 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.”

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

Neither Death nor Life

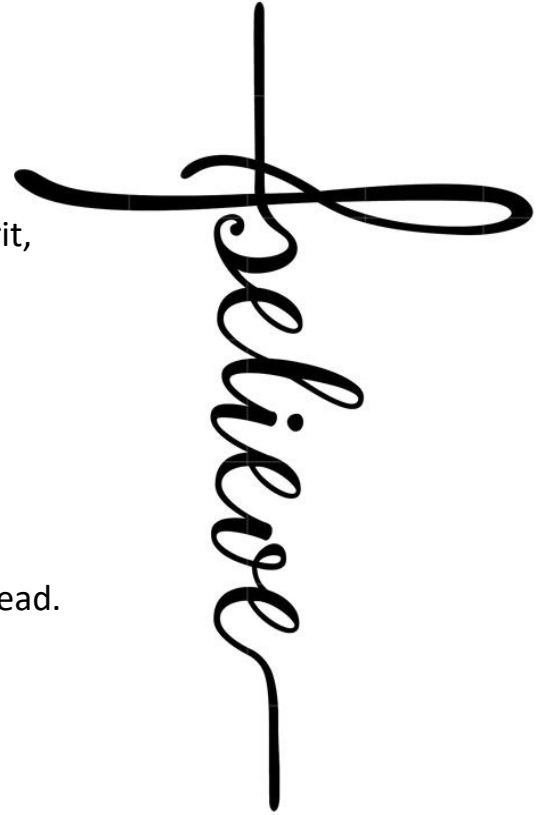
ELW 622

The Apostles' Creed

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



Prayers of Intercession

A. 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.

C. Your mercy is great.

P. 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.

C. Amen.

The Peace

- P. Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled.
May His peace be with you always.
- C. And also with you.



The Offering

Anthem

Let the vineyards...

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

- A. 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.
- C. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed.....

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might.

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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

Invitation to Communion

P. All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

C. Amen.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

ELW 775

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

Holy, Holy

(next page)

Holy, Holy

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
 2 Gra - cious Fa - ther, gra - cious Fa - ther,
 3 Pre - cious Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus,
 4 Ho - ly Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it,
 5 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah,

ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 we're so blest to be your chil - dren, gra - cious Fa - ther;
 we're so glad that you've re - deemed us, pre - cious Je - sus;
 come and fill our hearts a - new, . . . Ho - ly Spir - it;
 hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah;

and we lift our hearts be - fore you as a to - ken of our love,
 and we lift our heads be - fore you as a to - ken of our love,
 and we lift our hands be - fore you as a to - ken of our love,
 and we lift our voice be - fore you as a to - ken of our love,
 and we lift our hearts be - fore you as a to - ken of our love,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.
 gra - cious Fa - ther, gra - cious Fa - ther.
 pre - cious Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it.
 hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.
 C. Amen



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Prayer

A. We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

Blessing

P. 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.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Share the Harvest



Servers for Sunday, July 30th

- Assisting Minister Sylvia Lambert
Reader Alecia Harrison
Altar Guild Sylvia Lambert
Greeters/Counters Terry Barnes / Neil Brennecke



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway.
Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Flowers this week are given by Sylvia Lambert in honor of her Grandchildren – Forde, Jerri, and Ian.

Candles for the month of July are given to the Glory of God by Matt & Larissa Himmeger.



Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the hallway.