

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Ardmore, Pennsylvania
July 26, 2020



The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Be Thou Greeted, Dearest Jesus

J. S. Bach

(Congregation speaks words in bold print)

Announcements

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and
one another.

A time of silence for confession

Merciful God,

**We confess that we have failed to love ourselves and one another. We
want to be compassionate, but apathy has infected our spirits.
We want to work for justice and equality, but we are too busy and**

don't know how to respond. We know the magnitude of the work to be done in our world and we wonder how one person can make a difference. Forgive the sin of our inaction. Forgive us when we focus only on ourselves and our own needs. Open our eyes to see the face of Jesus in one another.

Sisters and Brothers, all have fallen short of the glory of God. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, in which we have forgiveness of sins and freedom to live as God's beloved people in the Kingdom right here . . . right now! Amen.

LITANY OF GOD'S KINGDOM

We come into your presence to discover the treasure that you have hidden in the midst of our very ordinary lives. Your kingdom is like a small seed that grows into a great tree.

Grow your word in us that we might be your people.

Your kingdom is like treasure buried in a field.

Reveal yourself to us that we would find great joy in the treasures of heaven.

Your kingdom is like finding a beautiful pearl of great value.

Teach us your priorities that we might understand what is most important in life.

Your kingdom is like a net that catches fish of every kind.

Draw us to yourself and claim us as your own. Give us your joy in discovering your kingdom at work among us and within us.

GATHERING SONG # 557

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
 2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
 3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
 4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
 5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
 hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
 perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
 I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
 God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
 thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
 all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God from which nothing can separate us, and the life-giving Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of



God; to make all things new.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mustard seeds and yeast, we come to you this day seeking your Word and will for our lives. Make us people who care deeply about the well-being of all. Give us courage to be yeast for the rising hope of equality and justice in our nation. Open our eyes to see that your Kingdom is found in the ordinariness of our daily lives. We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Word

Reading

Romans 8:31-39

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.

Reader/ A reading from Romans.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Solo
Renée Schultz, alto

Thy Perfect Love
K. Lee Scott

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.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Peterson



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
 2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
 its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
 but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown-
 and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
 though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
 we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
 and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

THE PRAYERS

(Each portion of the prayers concludes with the following:)

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

BENEDICTION

Go into the world knowing that nothing can separate you from the love of God.

May the unconditional love of God embrace you, the enfolding grace of Christ Jesus rest upon you, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit surprise and empower you to live as God's Beloved people.

Amen.

Refrain - All

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;
 trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.
 Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this
 far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

1 Just remember
 the good things God has done,
 things that seemed impossible;
 oh, praise him for the vict'ries he has won.

2 Don't be discouraged
 with trouble in your life;
 he'll bear your burdens,
 and move all the discord and strife.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love God and one another.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Prelude in G

J. S. Bach

Even though we are not meeting in person, the church has many fixed expenses including staff salaries and care of the building. We are also continuing our congregational support to our partner congregation Mediator, Philadelphia, and the Ardmore Food Pantry. We encourage you to continue giving to support our ministry, as you are able to in these times. Checks can be mailed to the church office, or you can give online at www.stpaulsardmore.com/giving.





St. Paul's
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