



**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Worship Service
July 26, 2020
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Thought: SAT of and for life! The test many of us had to take to reach a level that would allow us to enter the college/university of our choice! Maybe in our faith world it ought to stand for: Spirit's Advocacy for Truth? It says clearly in John 14:15-17 The Promise of the Holy Spirit:

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

Much like Solomon, rather than praying for what the world might offer, we pray for the wisdom to see, hear and understand how God continues to work among us and how we might be the mustard seed, yeast that becomes "more."

Prelude – How Great Thou Art – Chris Rice

<http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/How-Great-Thou-Art-with-lyrics-performed-by-chris-rice-18.mp4>

Call to Worship
based on Psalm 105

L: O give thanks to the Lord, make known God's deeds among the peoples.

C: Sing to the Lord; tell of all God's wonderful works.

L: Glory in God's holy name.

C: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

L: Seek the Lord's strength and presence continually.

C: Praise God, whose judgments are in all the earth.

Gathering Music – Psalm 119:9-16 Jason Silver

http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Psalm-119_9-16-Song-Pure-137140.mp4

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Prayer

P: God of grace, we live in a world that rewards the strong and violates the weak. Forgive us for the ways in which we have adopted the values of this world and trusted in human strength, only to be tripped up by our weakness.

A time of silence and reflection

C: Teach us to welcome our weakness as opportunities to rest in your Spirit. We are so readily seduced by the power of words that when our own words fail us, we feel lost. In deceiving ourselves, we have failed a world that desperately needs to know hope.

P: Teach us to be still enough to find the powerful hope that lies in your love, shown to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

C: And also with you!

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen!

Hymn of Praise – Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring

<http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Best-Version-of-Jesu-Joy-Of-Mans-Desiring-by-Bach-With-Lyrics-135140.mp4>

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.**

The Word

Holy Gospel – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Parables of the reign of heaven (God)

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

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.”

The Parable of the Yeast

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.”

Three Parables

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 righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Psalm 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰ **The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ With open mouth I pant,
because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.**

¹³³ Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ **Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.**

¹³⁵ Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not kept.**

Second reading – Romans 8:26-39

Nothing can separate us from God's love

²⁶ Likewise 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.

God's Love in Christ Jesus

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

First reading – 1 Kings 3:5-12

Solomon's prayer for wisdom

⁵ At 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading – 1 Kings 3:5-15
Children’s Time – Wise as an Owl
Homily – Pastor Barnes: What Would You Pray For?
<https://youtu.be/E7P8CqV7bdA>

Hymn of the Day – The Word – Sara Groves
<http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/The-Word-Sara-Groves-18.mp4>

Prayers of Intercession

P: 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.

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. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

As the birds of the air next 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,

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. 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 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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.

Offering Prayer

P: Receive these offerings as a prayer of gratitude for the hope that sustains us in even our most difficult times. You have called us to be the very presence of Christ in this hurting world. We offer these gifts to you as symbols of our willingness to spend our time, energy, and material resources to continue Christ's ministry of sacrificial love. Guide us in using all that we have and all that we are to make known the great, world-changing truth that nothing in all creation can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

Closing Prayer

L: Loving God whose promise is our hope, hear our prayers.

C: Some days we feel strong and vibrant, ready to praise your name in joy. Other days we are so overcome with weakness of spirit that we cannot even lift our voices to you. Remind us that, whatever the day brings, you see our hearts; in our darkest times and deepest sadness, you hear our unvoiced pleas.

L: When we tremble in the face of an uncertain future, direct our thoughts to Christ, who gives us victory.

C: Help us to bear witness to the promise of your presence and the hope that transcends despair, fear, and heartache.
In the name of the one who proved your love for us, Christ Jesus, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

Benediction - Numbers 6

C: Amen.

Sending Music – Be Thou My Vision – Audrey Assad

<http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Be-Thou-My-Vision-Audrey-Assad-137140.mp4>

Dismissal

L: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Be Still and Know – Steven Curtis Chapman

<http://www.oslchopeonthehill.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Be-Still-And-Know-137140.mp4>