



**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - July 30, 2023
9:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

Farewell and Godspeed for Lily Fleming

Gathering Hymn – Jesus, Priceless Treasure – ELW #775

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

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

Silence for reflection.

L: Merciful God,

All: we confess that we have sinned.

We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty.

We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak.

We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us mercy.

L: God quenches our thirst for forgiveness. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: we are freed and forgiven in the + name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Greeting

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise – Gather Us In – ELW #532 vs 1 & 2

Prayer of the Day

A: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy.

C: By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes

A: from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Word

First Reading: 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.' 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 towards 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 119:129-136

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

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. 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.

28 We 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.

31 What 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.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

31 He put before them 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.'

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; 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.**

Message – Tim Leitner, SAM

<https://youtu.be/RpgzSOaYumg>

Hymn of the Day – Be Thou My Vision – ELW #793

The Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers of Intercession

L: 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.

A: 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 our youth and those coming to you into disciples. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty trees and the tiny mustard seeds, and send advocates for sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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... Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: 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.

Offering

**Offertory Hymn – Now We Join in Celebration
ELW #462 vs 1 & 2**

Offertory Prayer

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things.

C: Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love,

A: through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth, as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

L: Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.

C: Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,

A: through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

L: The God of peace, Father, +Son and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn – On Our Way Rejoicing – ELW #537

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude