

***SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH***  
**July 25 & 26, 2020 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace**

**Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson**

***OUR VISION***

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “We Are the Reason”** ..... Fred Bornhoeft

**INVOCATION**

**P:** We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

**C:** **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN: “Beautiful Savior”**

Beautiful Savior, / King of creation, / Son of God and Son of Man! / Truly I'd love thee, / truly I'd serve thee, / light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, / fair are the woodlands, / robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; / Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, / he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, / fair is the moonlight, / bright the sparkling stars on high; / Jesus shines brighter, / Jesus shines purer / than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, / Lord of the nations, / Son of God and Son of Man! / Glory and honor, / praise, adoration, / now and forevermore be thine!

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904. Public Domain.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin. Most merciful God,

**C:** **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: “This Is the Day”**

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

**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.

C: Amen

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “What A Day”** ..... Mike & Carol Blackburn

**READING: Psalm 119:129-136** ..... Mary McGillis

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments. Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name. Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts. Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

**GOSPEL: 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: “The Kingdom of God is Like ...”** . . . . . Pastor Scott Hackler

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God / and its righteousness, / and all these things shall be added unto you. / Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; / seek and you shall find; / knock and the door shall be opened unto you. / Allelu, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone, / but by ev'ry word / that proceeds from the mouth of God. / Allelu, alleluia.

Text: Matthew 6:33, 7:7; adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; (c) 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company. Used by permission CCLI License No. 1347924.

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**C: 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 into hell. 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**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**C: 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**

**P:** 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. God, the creator, Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.  
**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN: “How Firm a Foundation”**

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, / is laid for your faith in his excellent word! / What more can he say than to you he has said / who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, / for I am your God and will still give you aid; / I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, / upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, / my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply. / The flames shall not hurt you; I only design / your dross to consume and your gold to refine."

"Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove / my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love; / and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn, / like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt. Public Domain.

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Christ is with you!

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Hymn vocalists: Karen Boeck, Stephen Coffman, Cathy Pierce, Terry Pierce

Thank you to everyone who participated in this service to make it special.

Producer & Editor: Jerry Huston

### ***RUNNING THE RACE***

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14