

The kingdom of
heaven is like ...



treasure hidden in a field ...
one pearl of great value

Matthew
13:44-46

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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"In Nomine Iesu"

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

WELCOME - The Father has loved the Son, and the Son has loved all people, making a home for us with Him in the Father's love. Dwelling in the Father's love by faith in Jesus, we keep His commandments. As we come to realize that we are loved by God, we discover that keeping His commandments is not burdensome, but a joy. Jesus' word of promise fills us with joy. He has chosen us to be His fruitbearing friends who love people the way He does. Alleluia!

Visitors – we pray you feel welcomed here at St. Paul's and invite you to worship with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a registration card found in the pew rack. We love having you with us this morning.

Everyone is asked to fill out the attendance card ***each week*** and place it in the basket on the table or hand it to an usher as you leave the service.

In the celebration of Holy Communion we joyfully receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. Since this is also a sign of our common confession of faith, we welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently confirmed members of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. If you wish to commune for the first time at St. Paul's, please speak to Pastor before the service.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bells

The Order of Worship

Lutheran Service Book – Divine Service Four with Communion

Hymn of Invocation

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”

LSB #554

Invocation (*please stand*)

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

Confession and Absolution

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness;
therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 105:2-6; antiphon: Ps. 105:1

- P Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
C make known his deeds among the peoples!
- P Sing to him, sing praises to him;
C tell of all his wondrous works!
- P Glory in his holy name;
C let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
- P Seek the LORD and his strength;
C seek his presence continually!
- P Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
C his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
- P O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
C children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

- P Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
C make known his deeds among the peoples!

Kyrie

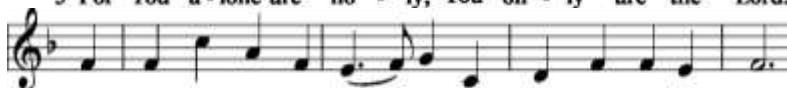


C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
 2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
 3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
 O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

(be seated)

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

⁶ “For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 8:28-39

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those 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 among many brothers. 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.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded 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 sure 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.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse (*please stand*)

The image shows three staves of musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." with a square box containing a cross symbol at the beginning. The second staff contains the lyrics "These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that" with a square box containing a cross symbol at the beginning. The third staff contains the lyrics "Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God." with a square box containing a cross symbol at the beginning. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests.



Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. 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 who, on finding one pearl of great value, 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 gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away 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 fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(be seated)

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day *“I Love Your Kingdom, Lord”*

LSB #651

Sermon

Nicene Creed *(please stand)*

All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(be seated)

Presentation of the Offering & Musical Offering

Prayers of the Church

(After each portion of the prayers)

L Lord, in your mercy, **C** **Hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

P Lord God, heavenly Father, it is not for the sake of our numbers or strength or birth that You preserve us, but for the sake of Your faithfulness and steadfast love. As You preserved Your ancient people of Israel for the sake of Your promises, keep Your Holy Church on earth, and also preserve our Synod, we pray, for the sake of Your name. Lead our delegates and members, gathered in convention,

according to Your good pleasure and will, that in word and action we may love You and keep Your commandments, confessing Your steadfast love and faithfulness even to a thousand generations; through Christ, the crucified, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (*please stand*)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

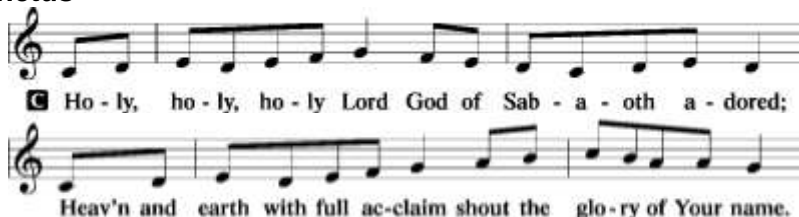
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

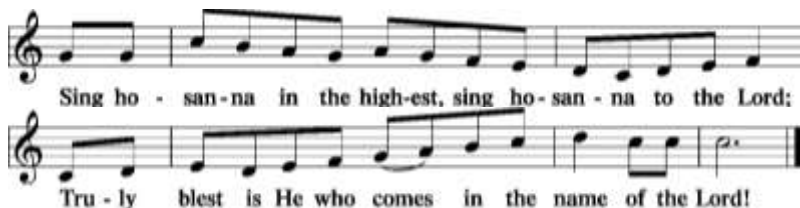
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo - ry of Your name.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

The Lord's Prayer

P Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

All 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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My (+) body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My (+) blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution (be seated)

(All members of our St. Paul's family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup.

The CENTER RING of the individual communion cup tray contains white grape juice. The OUTER RINGS contain red wine. Gluten free wafers are available from a communion assistant.)

Distribution Hymns

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

LSB #618

"The Church's One Foundation"

LSB #644

Nunc Dimittis *(please stand)*



1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we ask You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you
 and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor
 and (+) give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

LSB #922

Silent Prayer

(be seated)

Postlude

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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