

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.

*Matthew 13:31-32*

## **Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

July 26, 2020

*Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel*

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

*The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God  
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through  
worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.*

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Ten*

*The paraments are green during the season of Pentecost to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.*

## **✠ GATHERING ✠**

### **ACCLAMATION**

Timothy Olsen

*Alleluia.* Many will come from east and west  
and will eat in the kingdom of heaven. *Alleluia.*  
(Matthew 8:11)

### **OPENING VOLUNTARY** Come, Thou Fount

arr. David Ferreira

*Laura Stevens, flute*

*We stand.*

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*We stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters the sanctuary, following the cross as we have followed Jesus into this holy place and time of corporate worship.*

# GATHERING HYMN 793 Be Thou My Vision

SLANE



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth,  
 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth;  
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all;



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

*After the prayer the assembly responds:* **Amen.**

*We sit.*

## WELCOME

# ✠ WORD ✠

## FIRST READING Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” 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. 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. 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. 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?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 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, 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. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

- <sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.  
<sup>130</sup>When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.  
<sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.  
<sup>132</sup>Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.  
<sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.  
<sup>134</sup>Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.  
<sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.  
<sup>136</sup>My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:26-39

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. 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. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 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. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. 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. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **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.**

*We sit.*

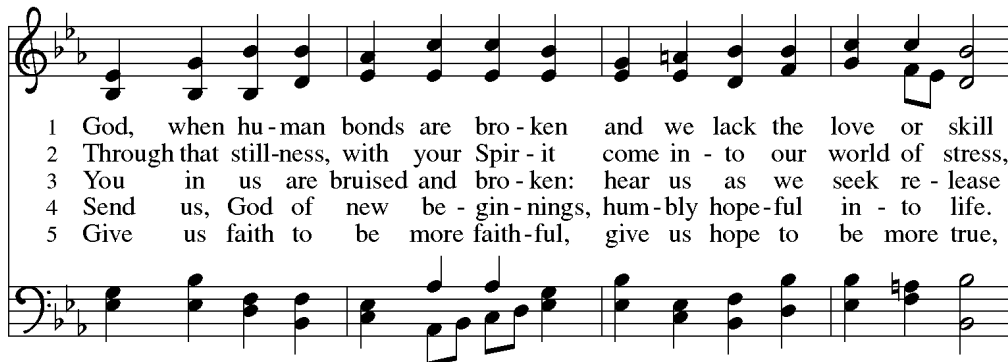
## SERMON

*We stand.*



# HYMN OF THE DAY 603 God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

MERTON



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill  
 2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,  
 3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease  
 4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.  
 5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.  
 for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.  
 from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.  
 Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.  
 give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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## 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

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*Each portion of the prayers concludes:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We sit.*

# ✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM Cantate Domino

Hans Leo Hassler

Sing to the LORD a new song, sing to the LORD all the earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless God's name.

Announce from day to day God's salvation.

Announce among the nations God's glory,

Among all the peoples God's wonders.

*We stand.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spi - rit with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pre-sence, and  
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

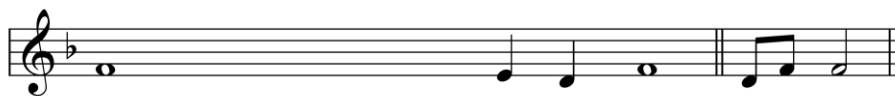
**For thine is the kingdom,**

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

## ✠ SENDING ✠

### BLESSING



The Lord bless you ... and ✠ give you peace. A - men.



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,  
 2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;  
 3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:  
 known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
 chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in-ven - tive pow'rs with you;  
 probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,  
 May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
 fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um-phiant hour.  
 great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY** Allegro *from* Sonata in G Major

Pietro Locatelli

*Laura Stevens, flute*

## *Soli Deo Gloria*

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# Announcements

**The altar flowers are given to the glory of God** and in memory of George Fowler, by Violet and Jeff Fowler.

**This week we keep in prayer Joyce Kauffman**, C/O Carter Broome, 1096 Biltmore Drive, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30329-4004. Please send **Joyce** a note.

**Remember the Food Drive to support Christ's Beloved Community Food Pantry:** We will be collecting non-perishable food items on Thursday, July 30, at the same three locations across our community as the last time. More information will be shared via Flocknote and Social Media this coming week.

**Pastor Lori will begin a new online Bible study, Tuesday at 2 p.m.!** Pastor Lori will begin a four-week series on "Tension in the Testaments: Conflict in the Bible". Instructions for being part of the Bible study are sent each Monday via Flocknote.

**A reminder that a called meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday, August 2, at 4:00 p.m.** via Zoom and phone options. The primary purpose of this meeting is to consider and vote upon an Outdoor Gathering Space to be built when the previously planned demolition of the house on the far west end of the property occurs. Please save the date; you will receive further communications regarding this meeting via USPS and Flocknote. The Council also voted to continue the current facility policy through August 15th. The Council also established a Task Force to identify the needs, policies and procedures that need to be put in place prior to us returning to worship or other Augsburg events.

**Intergenerational Sunday School class:** This morning we met for week three of an eight-week intergenerational Sunday School class exploring the challenges that our community and our nation currently face. You are invited to join the pastors as we explore matters related to racism, poverty, policy setting, and other issues that need to be discussed. Each week will have a different topic with different preparation materials. Even if you cannot be present at all classes, you are still welcome anytime you are available. The preparation materials for each week, should average about 15-30 minutes of your time prior to that Sunday morning. The class will take place on Sunday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a. m. Please email Pastor Paul at [seniorpastor@alcws.org](mailto:seniorpastor@alcws.org) if you would like to participate.

**Altar Flower Dedications.** Thank you to everyone who contributes to the beautiful altar flowers each week. If you are interested in dedicating flowers as a memorial or in honor of a loved one, please call the church office for more information. We currently have open slots for Sept. 20, and Oct. 4, 11, and 18.

**We keep you in prayer during our time apart.** Our pastors continue to be available for your pastoral care needs. If you would like to reach a pastor, please call their cell phones, send them a text, or an email. Pastor Paul is 803-331-5970 or [seniorpastor@alcws.org](mailto:seniorpastor@alcws.org) and Pastor Lori is 336-414-2838 or [pastoralassociate@alcws.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@alcws.org).

**God's work continues at Augsburg,** and while we can't gather in person, our hands can still help carry out that work wherever we are through our love and our resources. Because important ministries continue during our facilities closure, offerings can still be shared through any of these suggested options: drop it in the mail, use the bill pay services that your bank offers, or use Realm to give online. Visit our website—[www.augsburglutheran-ws.org](http://www.augsburglutheran-ws.org)—and click on “Give Now” for more information. Thank you for all the ways that you support God's work at Augsburg, your Stewardship Team.

**Readings for next week:** Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21.

**Worship attendance for services last week: 195** views on **YouTube**.

### **Providing Service Today**

*Bulletin Cover Artist*

Muriel Riggs

*Lay Reader*

Carol Kainz

*Preaching*

Pastor Carter

*Quartet*

Karen Kookan, Robert Matthews, Daniele Olsen, Timothy Olsen

*Flute*

Laura Stevens

*Greeters*

Linda Maynard-Stephens and Charles Stephens

*Assisting Minister*

Hannah Norem



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Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Faith Formation

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Kathy Barnes, Administrative Assistant

Bruce Tippet, Youth Music and Handbell Dir.

Hannah Norem, Interim Youth and Communications Assistant

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

*Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation*