

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
Matthew 13:45

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

11:00 AM

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.*

On the center aisle of each pew is a folder known as the “Friendship Register.” Please sign the register and check if you are communing today. Be sure to review the sheet to identify visitors. Please hand the completed pages from the register to an usher during the singing of the Hymn of the Day.

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Ten

The paraments are green during the time after Pentecost. Green is used to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ.

✠ GATHERING ✠

ACCLAMATION

William Stevens

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Johannes Brahms

We stand.

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 705 God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

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 1 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.**

PSALM 119:129-136



- ¹²⁹Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
- ¹³⁰When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.
- ¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
- ¹³²Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name.
- ¹³³Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
- ¹³⁴Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.
- ¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶My 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.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Katherine A. Shaner

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

BEACH SPRING

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 that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

Each portion of the prayers conclude:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

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.

The congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another. Please honor those who prefer not to physically share the peace.

We sit.

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING

We pass the offering plates in recognition that we are all invited to participate in sharing the gifts of abundance with what God has first given us. We recognize that many share their financial gifts online or at different frequencies; passing the plates connects us in our giving, no matter how we share. Please pass the plate down the pew and then onto the next row.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and



take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the



joy of your sal - va - tion and up - hold me with your free spir - it.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:

our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered,

in feeding the world with your love,

through the one who gave himself for us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The music is a simple, melodic line with a steady rhythm.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Sanctus'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures. The music is a simple, melodic line with a steady rhythm.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

We sit.

COMMUNION

Holy Communion is available to all who believe, through two options. Those who are able are invited forward to receive the bread and wine through the method of intinction. Please let an usher know if you need a gluten-free wafer or grape juice option. You may also choose to receive an individual pre-sealed communion kit from an usher that you are welcome to bring forward for the Eucharistic Proclamation. The pastors will come to the pens of those unable to come forward. Those who would like to receive a blessing instead of communion are asked to cross their hands when they come forward.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

HYMN 488 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

SCHMÜCKE DICH

We stand.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *Nunc dimittis*

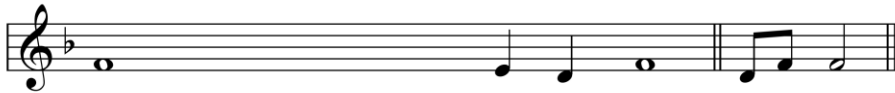
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
been ful-filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
which you have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it,
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er.
A - men.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Let us pray.
God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING



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

The assembly faces the cross as it leaves the sanctuary, following the cross as we follow Jesus into the world. All remain facing the cross for the dismissal.

SENDING HYMN 867 In Thee Is Gladness

IN DIR IST FREUDE

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY In dir ist Freude, BWV 615

J.S. Bach

Soli Deo Gloria

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003858.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A707232. All rights reserved.



AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

845 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101

www.alcws.org (336) 722-8144

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod

Rostered Ministers of Word and Sacrament

The Reverend Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor*

The Reverend Joe Yucha, Associate Pastor

Rostered Minister of Word and Service

The Reverend Katie B. Bryant, Youth & Emerging Ministries

Our rostered ministers observe Friday as their sabbath day. *Pastor Paul is on sabbatical through Oct. 9.

Please refer to the announcement sheet for the pastor on call.

Daniele Olsen: Executive Assistant

Kris Andrews: Interim Financial Administrator

Reggie Jackson: Lead Sexton

Carl Davis: Sexton

Dr. Timothy Olsen: Cantor

Christin Barnhardt: Handbell & Children's Music Director

Hannah Norem: Vicar & Communications Coordinator

Robin Welch: Youth & Outreach Coordinator

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation