



THE 8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, LECTIONARY 17, JULY 26, 2020

Welcome to worship! We are one family of faith even as we worship in-house and wherever we are sheltering in place. Let us gather together in heart and spirit, encouraging, praying and caring for one another.

In today's gospel Jesus offers a rich multitude of images that reveal the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that permeates, empowering growth, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch.

Is there one that, reading it, you say, 'That is me! I am that beloved by God' or 'How wonderful – God's love enriches every part of my life!' And so we are, and God does. Yet there is more: God wants us to love, God calls us to permeate. What God is, God grows. As God empowers, God enables.

GATHERING

Announcements and time for prayer and preparation.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the Trinity, Father, Son ✚ and Holy Spirit,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reforming God,

**You have promised to be with us and abundantly bless
yet in fear we are divided.**

**We confess that we do not trust your abundance,
failing to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We close our hand to our neighbor,
and use your good creation carelessly for our own benefit.**

**We place our hope in ourselves, yet our efforts fall short of your love
and your children suffer.**

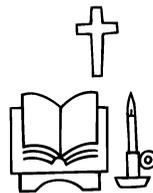
**By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, re-form us;
so that the world may know us by your love. Amen.**

Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins, Now, seek good, and not evil; love mercy. Encourage one another to acts of love as we await the fullness of the coming Kingdom in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GREETING

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

Let us pray: 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. **Amen.**



The Readings

The first reading is from 1 Kings, the 3rd chapter.

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 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. 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." *1 Kings 3:5-12*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Silence for Reflection

The second reading is from Romans, the 8th chapter.

²⁶The 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.

²⁸We 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.

³¹What 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. *Romans 8:26-29*

The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52, is offered

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Give glory to God's holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. *Alleluia.*

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter! **Glory to you O Lord!**

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] 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."

³³He 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 our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Teaching the Word / Sermon

CONFESSION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

When we were baptized into Christ, we received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, that we would be made part of the Body of Christ and be strengthened in the Spirit and power to follow Christ. Before God, and one another, let us confess the faith of the Church in trust and confidence.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

Sustained by the promised hope of healing and new life, we join our voices and prayers with God's people in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net, the joy of treasure found. Help your church witness to the everyday surprising ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the birds of the air find shelter, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here we may offer the needs of our hearts in the silence after each petition

Help us share the burdens of those weighed down by need, fear, abuse, and all those whose needs we bring before you:

all who need medical treatment from any and every cause,
and those unable to access care...

all weighed down by fear and loss and grief...

families struggling and stressed to meet the needs of work and home...

those struggling and anxious for health in body, mind and finances....

Hear our needs, and the needs known only to You. Be our strength to meet the days ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Other petitions may be offered as there is need...

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the faithful witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light who now rest in you. 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.**

Pause to share Peace and offer thanks for God's gifts that sustain and bless us. If you wish, offer thanks out loud for blessings received, something or someone for whom you are grateful. Offerings can be made online by going to the website christpipersville.org, or using the QR code with your smartphone. Offerings can also be gathered and mailed.



Then continue:

Let us pray. *Silence* God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Water and word, wine and bread:

these are signs of your abundant grace.

**Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

A Brief Silence

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

We give you thanks and praise.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**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 God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

*We give thanks to God that we are able to gather where we are sheltering in place
and in-house, and for your faithful support as we move forward serving one
another and our community.*



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* 'make a leg' is term from the 17th into the 18th c for an elegant bow made by a man.