

LARGE PRINT EDITION

HOLY COMMUNION



July 30, 2023 + 9:30 am
Parables of the reign of heaven

Learn Live and Share God's Word

Christ the yeast transforms our lumpiness into living bread
In baptism God promises that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith, ancient yet ever new. In today's gospel Jesus offers images from everyday life that reveal to us the reign of God. It is like a tree that becomes a safe and sheltering home, like yeast that penetrates and expands, like a treasured pearl, like 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!

We Gather to Begin the Day Anew in Baptism

PRELUDE

"Gather Us In"

Marty Haugen

At the sound of the bell please stand and face the worship leaders at the font.

GATHERING AROUND THE FONT

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the presider begins.

P We begin the day anew in baptism in the name
of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING PSALM

Psalm 119:129–136 (ICEL)

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (119:130)

L Wonderful are your decrees, I guard them with my life.

C Unfold your word, enlighten the simple.

L Longing for you, I thirst for your teaching.

C Turn and favor me, because I love your name.

L Let your word lead my steps, and evil not master me.

C Save me from the oppressor, so I may keep your commandments.

L Smile upon me and teach me your ways,

C I shed endless tears over those who break your law.

Give praise to the Father Almighty;

to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord;

to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts; both now and forever.

Amen.

P Let us pray .

(ELW psalm prayer)

Holy God, you are just in all your ways

and your commandments are the greatest of treasures.

Teach us to love you with all our hearts

and to love our neighbors as ourselves,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

(hymn) ELW 532

“Gather Us In”

stanza 1, 3, 4

**1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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GREETING

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

C And also with you.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

We Listen to God's Word

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING *Solomon's prayer for wisdom* 1 Kings 3:5–12

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies,
God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well. In verse 13
God gives him additional honor and riches beyond compare.*

At 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.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12–25

Nothing can separate us from God's love

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

Paul writes to the church at Rome:

Likewise 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. 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.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands and welcomes the gospel, singing: setting 3; p. 142

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

Parables of the reign of heaven

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that “the kingdom of heaven is near!” Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C 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; 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.”

⁴⁴The 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.

⁴⁵Again, 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.

⁴⁷Again, 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.

⁵¹Have 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 the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ELW 793

“Be Thou My Vision”

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.
In our Summer services the intercessions include a prayer of confession as we
prepare to receive the Lord's Supper. Each petition concludes:
...in your mercy.*

C Hear our prayer.

Prayer of the Day *concludes these prayers.*

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.
Hear these our prayers and give us all that we need for this day
and the days to come; through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

We Feast Around the Table of the Lord

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel.

Thank you for your generosity.

"Seek Ye First"

(blue) (WOV 783)

pop-up choir

Presentation of the Gifts

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

C God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.

**Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1975)

C Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory

are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table

Communion

"Lamb of God"

setting 3; page 146

**C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

Gracious God,
in this meal you have drawn us to you,
and nourished us at your table.

Now send us forth to be your people in the world;
in Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

We Are Sent to Be God's Hands in the World

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**P May Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you,
and bring forth the bountiful gifts of the Spirit in your lives.**

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(hymn) ELW 547

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Love has found us.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Westerndorf

You are welcomed to be seated and enjoy the postlude if you wish.

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Serving Today

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Trina Benedict, *assisting minister*

Jo Alice Boatright, *reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Dave Larson, Myrna Flatland, *technology*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Rich Feist, Dick Jacobson, *ushers*

Rich Feist, *bus ministry*

Barb & Bob Hollister, *coffee hosts*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given to the glory of God.

If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.

This service is being streamed live

Summer worship attendance

Thank you for considering sitting forward of the banners in the back of the sanctuary for this Summer season. Sitting closer together, and forward, when attendance is lower helps the assembly’s worship in two ways:

- We sing better when we are closer together.
- We look better on the webcast when the assembly can be seen in the frame.

--- Worship & Music Team

Get our social media numbers up

Please subscribe to our YouTube channel and Pastor C’s Twitter feed to help with the algorithms.

WELCOME

Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

MT. CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

learn, live and share God's word
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