

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Faith Lutheran Church

God's Plans

July 23, 2023



AS WE GATHER: God's plans are far beyond our understanding. Even His divine existence sends our minds reeling. No wonder that Jesus' disciples, and we who follow them, cannot figure out why He lets His and our spiritual enemies live with us. But because we have been given faith by the Holy Spirit, and although we cannot understand God's plans, in the death and resurrection of Christ, our Lord, we trust His divine wisdom. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit and know that the Spirit intercedes for us. Thus, even in the groans of our prayers, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In sure hope, we wait for the day when we shall "shine like the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

DIVINE SERVICE – Setting Four...LSB p. 203

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you."

Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn Come, Ye Thankful People, Come #892



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un-to His praise to yield;
3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His har-vest home,
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath-ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.
From His field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way,
Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.
Give His an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy gar - ner to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
But the fruit - ful ears to store In His gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–71, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- 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.

Kneel/Stand

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

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

Prayer for Forgiveness

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Absolution

L Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all our 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

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalms 86:11–15; antiphon: v. 6

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set you before them. But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

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.

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

Kyrie

LSB 204



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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



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 - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 44:6–8* (No one compares to God.)

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle *Romans 8:18–27* (The Holy Spirit intercedes as we wait for the end of this troubled world.)

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia

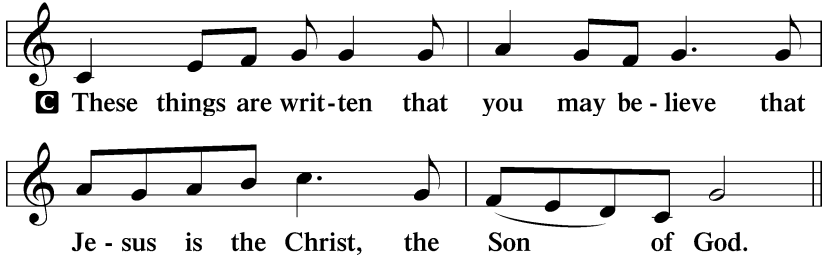
LSB 205



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verse

LSB 205



C These things are writ-ten that you may be-lieve that
Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia

LSB 205



C Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Holy Gospel *Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43* (The parable of the wheat and weeds)

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

...

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Sermon The Holy Spirit; The Comforter - Romans 8:18-27

Sermon Hymn Christ Is Surely Coming #509



1 Christ is sure - ly com - ing Bring - ing His re - ward,
 2 See the ho - ly cit - y! There they en - ter in,
 3 Grace be with God's peo - ple! Praise His ho - ly name!



Al - pha and O - me - ga, First and Last and Lord:
 All by Christ made ho - ly, Washed from ev - 'ry sin:
 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Ev - er - more the same;



Root and Stem of Da - vid, Bril - liant Morn - ing Star;
 Thirst - y ones, de - sir - ing All He loves to give,
 Hear the cer - tain prom - ise From the e - ter - nal home:



Meet your Judge and Sav - ior, Na - tions near and far!
 Come for liv - ing wa - ter, Free - ly drink, and live!
 "Sure - ly I come quick - ly! Come, Lord Je - sus, come!"

Text: Christopher M. Idle, 1938. Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958. Text: © 1980 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110006139. Tune: Public domain

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Redeemer and Lord of hosts, the future is in Your hands. Remove all fear from us, and keep us mindful that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of heaven and earth, we give thanks that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died to redeem the world and restore creation. Until new life supplants the groanings of this age, lead us to steward Your creation well, not in waste but in wise and diligent use with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Be patient with those who do not repent or believe. Send Your Holy Spirit to bring them into saving faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Guide the leaders of all nations, that they would work for peace and justice in the face of conflict and discord. By, or despite, their efforts, protect the weak and defenseless. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We commend to You all who endure the bondage of decay through infirmity and weakness [*especially* _____]. Deliver them according to Your will, and strengthen and preserve their faith, that they may rejoice that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We give You thanks for all who serve as instruments of Your

compassion, those who care for the elderly at home, and those who work in retirement and nursing facilities, [especially _____] Grant that we also may serve as Your hands, feet and voices to give comfort and company to the lonely. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Other Petitions [Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer**]

P Preserve us in hope for what we do not see. Grant that we would receive Your Holy Supper with hearts free from pride, presumption or any other sin that would profane His precious body and blood. May we rejoice in His bodily presence for our forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, You have called us according to Your purpose. You cause all things to work together for our good. Keep us safe until that day when You gather us with the saints into Your kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering and Contemporary Hymn 'My Jesus' by Matt and Kayla

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

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 salutary 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 saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C 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.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

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.

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

Lord's Prayer

C 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

LSB 210



C 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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Left Column

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

Distribution Hymns

Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good #819



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood
keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness
a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our
 His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom
 And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and
 Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's
 A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:
 of His might All things are just and good and right:
 praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:
 ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:
 from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - ry!
 To God all praise and glo - ry!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615. Text and tune: Public domain

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee #750



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in
 2 What can these anx - ious cares a - vail thee, These nev - er -
 3 Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful
 4 God knows full well when times of glad - ness Shall be the



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be -
 ceas - ing moans and sighs? What can it help if thou be -
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's
 need - ful thing for thee. When He has tried thy soul with



tid - e thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and
plea - sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath sent, Nor doubt our
sad - ness And from all guile has found thee free, He comes to



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.
tri - als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.
in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.
thee all un - a - ware And makes thee own His lov - ing care.

- 5 Nor think amid the fiery trial
That God hath cast thee off unheard,
That he whose hopes meet no denial
Must surely be of God preferred.
Time passes and much change doth bring
And sets a bound to ev'rything.
- 6 All are alike before the Highest;
'Tis easy for our God, we know,
To raise thee up, though low thou liest,
To make the rich man poor and low.
True wonders still by Him are wrought
Who setteth up and brings to naught.
- 7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text and tune: Georg Neumark, 1621–81. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let 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

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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

LSB 212

A 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.

Closing Hymn For the Fruits of His Creation #894



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000. Tune: Welsh, 18th cent. Text: © 1970 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110006139. Tune: Public domain

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