

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - July 23, 2023



Paul uses the image of labor pains to describe how the entirety of God's creation is stretching and growing. God is birthing something new through Christ Jesus, and the culmination of that will be visible when he returns in glory. Growth can be a hard process, as Jesus teaches his disciples. Good seeds are planted only to be surrounded by weeds sown by an enemy. Even so, God is in control of the creation.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ In worship, we hear God's Word, partake in the Lord's Supper, and return our thanks in prayer and praise.
- ◆ If you receive the Lord's Supper in your home congregation, you are welcome to receive it here.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.
- ◆ Please fill out a visitor card so we can keep in touch. The Lord give you strength for daily living.

LBW - DIVINE SERVICE ONE

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN HALL

MUSICAL PRELUDE - KAREN HALL

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *(Spoken)*

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**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage 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 you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

▲ ENTRANCE HYMN "PRAISE THE LORD! O HEAVENS" LBW #540

▲ KYRIE *(Spoken)*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

▲ PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Spoken)*

God of mercy, when this world seems overrun by the evil that surrounds us, remind us that your Son, Jesus, has conquered evil and death and triumphed over all. **Help us to confront the evil that can reside within us and turn it over to your transformative grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

▼ FIRST READING — ISAIAH 44:6-8 *(Pew Bible, p. 718)*

▼ SECOND READING — ROMANS 8:18-27 *(Pew Bible, p. 1122)*

▼ CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ GOSPEL VERSE *(Sung)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

▲ GOSPEL READING & RESPONSES - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 *(Spoken, Pew Bible, p. 973)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ MESSAGE - "GOT WEED?"

▲ HYMN OF THE DAY "OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED" (TUNE OF 'O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED LBW #117')

**Our father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,
As, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.**

**And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.**

**O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving and evercaring Lord,
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.**

▲ APOSTLES' CREED *(Spoken)*

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 *(Spoken)*

▲ THE PEACE *(Spoken)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

▲ OFFERING HYMN *(Sung)*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

▲ DEDICATION OF NEW GREEN PARAMENTS

▲ OFFERING PRAYER *(Spoken)*

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken)*

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲ SANCTUS *(Sung)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

▲ INSTITUTION AND LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

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.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

▲ AGNUS DEI *(Sung)*

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.

▼ DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

(Those who receive the Lord's Supper at their home congregation are welcome to join with us today.)

▲ POST-COMMUNION HYMN (*Sung*)

**Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*Spoken*)

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

▲ BENEDICTION (*Spoken*)

Go out into the world in peace.
Have courage, hold on to what is good,
Return no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted,
Support the weak, honor everyone,
Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you
Both this day and forevermore. Amen

▲ CLOSING HYMN: "HE LEADETH ME" LBW #501

▲ CALL COMMITTEE PRAYER

DISMISSAL (*Spoken*)

Grow in faith! **Impact the world!**

POSTLUDE