

Family Worship for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – July 26, 2020

Leader / Response

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.** (*Ps 124:8*)

If you kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand before you?

But with you is forgiveness; therefore, you are adored. (*Ps130:3-4*)

As we gather to hear God's Word, let us open our hearts to God and confess our sins, trusting in his infinite mercy for forgiveness and asking for his Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.

Almighty God, have mercy on me, hear this my confession, forgive all my sins, and renew me by your Holy Spirit for right living. (*Silent confession*)

In Holy Baptism our merciful God has declared us to be his royal children and forgives our sins for Jesus' sake, our risen Savior and Lord. Give praise now to the Lord of heaven and earth and live joyfully as his witnesses in the world. **Amen**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 125

¹ Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

² As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.

³ For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
**lest the righteous stretch out
their hands to do wrong.**

⁴ Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts!

⁵ But those who turn aside to their crooked ways
the Lord will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

HYMN [God of Grace and God of Glory](#) (*With Lyrics*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, your almighty power is most clearly shown in your mercy and pity. **Grant us grace to run to you in all troubles and give us our share in your heavenly joy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING – Deuteronomy 7:6-11

SECOND READING – Romans 8:28-39

GOSPEL VERSE (*Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can*)

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

GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel from St. Matthew, chapter 13. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 13:44-52

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN [Be Thou My Vision](#) *(With Lyrics)*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

OFFERING PRESENTATION *(Spoken; LBW #551, st.3)*

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
**Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine!**

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Sheet)*

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING *(Romans 15:13)*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

CLOSING HYMN [Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling](#) *(With Lyrics)*

EXTRA

[Pastor Dave: Fill the Tank](#)

[Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl](#) *(Children's Message)*

READINGS

First Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6-11

⁶“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, ¹⁰and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. ¹¹You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-39

²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those 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 among many brothers. 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 shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure 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.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. 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, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, 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 gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away 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 fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

PRAYERS

Lord God, you have called us to be your holy people, your treasured possession to bring glory to you on earth and in heaven. Help us to reflect the image of your Son by opening our hearts to the ministry of your Holy Spirit within us. Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, as you work in the circumstances of our lives to bring about good and include us in your plan of salvation, keep us mindful of your sovereign power to overcome challenges set before us and of your merciful love that promises to keep us safely in your strong hands. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Gracious Father, we know that at the end of the age you will separate the righteous from the evil and cast all that is evil into the fiery furnace of your hell. Help us all the more value the pearl of great price, even Jesus Christ our Savior. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Dear Lord, we pray for Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Paducah, Kentucky. As a sister LCMC church, we ask you to lift them up and keep them strong in their service of others as your willingly and humble saints. Bless their church and their pastor, Bernadine Anderson, and give them joy in their worship and service for you. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for our nation and its leaders. Raise up those who will lead by righteous example and restrain those who would lead us to destruction. As American people, help us to reaffirm what is good in our national story and prick our conscience to put away everything that is evil. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Gracious God, we continue to call out to you to bring this pandemic to an end. Nonetheless, use it as your tool for calling people to repentance and back to faith and help us learn the lesson again of being a neighbor to our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for those in need of your healing help. We continue to pray for Jason Pridgen, Amy Holcomb, Don Hasty, Marie Callahan, Pat Gollihue, Jeff Byrd, Shirley Hogan, Cathy Conaway, Keith Cornell, Ann Reiser, Rick Boyd, Pam Moore, Mary Jane Duff, and Robie Hester.

Hear our prayer for Brenda Dasher and her family as they mourn the death of her cousin J.W. Porter.

Finally, hear the prayers we now offer for those who needs concern us as we pray silently from our hearts....(moment of silence)

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we have prayed, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers for July 26, 2020

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help

Jason Pridgen, still suffering with liver problems, friend of Betty Robinson (7.22.20)
Amy Holcomb undergoing cancer treatments (R. Ratliff, 7.22.20)
Don Hasty suffering from heart troubles (D. Vorel, 7.22.20)
Marie Callahan recovering from a Brain Aneurysm (S. Sommervold, 7.19.2020)
Pat Gollihue on diagnosis of bone cancer (R. Zipperer, 7.19.2020)
Jeff Byrd on diagnosis of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (L. Byrd, 7.19.2020)
Shirley Hogan hospitalized with Covid 19 (K. Warnell, 7.19.2020)
Cathy Conaway, hospitalized with Covid 19 (K. Warnell, 7.19.2020)
Keith Cornell, paralysis and due for surgery (J. Helmlly, 7.19.2020)
Ann Reiser, undergoing cancer treatments (M. Reiser, 6.28.2020)
Rick Boyd, multiple health problems (C. Boyd, 6.21.2020)
Pam Moore, surgery after a bad fall (B. Helmlly, 6.13.2020)
Mary Jane Duff, hospitalized for heart problems (K. Hall, 6.7.2020)
Robie Hester, recovering from bypass surgery (M. Reiser, 5.31.20)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement

Brenda Dasher and family on death of her cousin, JW Porter (7.19.2020)
Bobby Exley and family on death of daughter, Teresa (J. Arnsdorff, 6.7.2020)
Stacey York and family upon death of her mother Annette (A. Terry, 6.6.2020)
Family of Franklin Davis killed in vehicle accident on Zittrouer Rd (S. White, 5.17.2020)
Family of Karen Hall's Great Aunt, Katherine who went to be with the Lord. (5.17.2020)
Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)
Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton
Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Michael Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer(Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer;
Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home); Keith Cornell (Paralysis;Helmlly); Clyde Johnson
(Home;Muthersbaugh); Thomas Owens (Home;Garner); Clay Stewart(Dementia;Sommervold);
Dale Williams (Nursing facility; B.Williams)

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” - Matthew 13:44

Jesus said that the kingdom of God is at hand, yet it has not yet come in its fullness. For now it is hidden, but one day it will be fully manifest. To express this complex reality, we say that God’s kingdom is “both already and not yet.” However, since this kingdom is also realized in time, perhaps we should say that it is “already, not yet, and coming.”

God’s kingdom is both costly and valuable. It costs us our entire lives, but it also gives us better lives in return. It gives us better lives by placing our daily work within a context of ultimate meaning and purpose, thereby ensuring that even our “mundane” work is eternally significant. In exchange for such value we should be willing to pay a commensurate price. As my grandfather once said to me, “Son, if you want good oats, you have to pay a good price, but if you want the oats that have already been through the horse, why they’re a bit cheaper.”

A parable uses an illustration to make a single point. Therefore, we should not unduly press the details of a parable. In our parable the man found the treasure, but we know that God is the one who finds us. In the parable the man hid and hoarded the treasure, but we know that we should proclaim and share the kingdom. In interpreting our parable, we don’t press these details because they are not the main point. The main point is that the kingdom is hidden, costly, and valuable.

The kingdom is valuable because it gives us something to live for. It is not just fire insurance that keeps us from going to hell. It calls us forth to invest our lives in God’s purpose in all that we do. Because the kingdom is a reign not a realm, it is not limited to the church. Rather, it is realized in every vocational sphere (family, church, state, workplace, and neighborhood) where God’s rule is embraced. And for just this reason, it infuses every aspect of our lives with ultimate purpose and meaning. Prayer: Father, use our lives to advance your kingdom in all that we do, in the precious name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

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Fill the Tank (of Compassion) - Pastor Dave

The compassion of Jesus for a lost and dying world compelled him to go to the cross to confront and defeat the powers of sin, death and the devil. It was compassion that he felt toward the harassed crowds of Israel during his earthly ministry (Mt. 9:35-38) and for which he asked that the church pray to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers to go into the field. As we look ahead this year to engaging the harvest fields of Effingham, here are four suggestions to help us begin filling our tanks with Christ’s compassion.

- 1) Set an alarm for 12noon on your phone/watch. Say a short prayer asking for God to fill you with divine compassion and to send laborers into the harvest.
- 2) For those who like to blog/write/express themselves, please feel free to write out prayer petitions around the harvest/compassion theme and mail them to blc.rincon@gmail.com. Pastor will use them on Sundays during the Prayers of the Church.
- 3) Evangelism Committee will be running a children’s Art Exhibition, kicking off on Sunday School Promotion Sunday, August 9. Details to follow...
- 4) Evangelism Committee will be sponsoring a congregational Prayer Vigil before we gather for our congregational planning meeting on Sept. 19. Details to follow...

The Kingdom of Heaven

Find the 39 bold words from Matthew 13:44-51 (ESV)

G O T S E P A R A T E C L J H
R N N S D V F G N D O D R Y T
A J A E L I Y E N V Y N A A E
N P H S S L D A E I Z E E W E
E A C H H D E R S U P R P A T
V N R D I I E S N O G E M A B
A G E H U D N D W T R Y E D K
E E M H F S E G I X H T E W I
H L R I Y R D N U O F R E K N
Q S E U S E A R C H E J E D G
V L B T S U O E T H G I R W D
D S O L D A D N T V A L U E O
Q O I J O Y E A Y R E I F A M
D V A E S T G R B E A G E L D
E C A N R U F L T D O O G L H

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. 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, who, on finding one pearl of great value, 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 gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away 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 fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things?

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Those Who Trust in the Lord

Find the 36 bold words from Psalm 125:1-5 (ESV).

H E D I S A X H D W T S Y A W
A W A Y I L C A R S S S G M M
S R I G H T E O U S U N G E E R
Z S X W E L N A B M R I L E E
I Q E R R G O S R P T A P V T
O P T N D D E U R V S S T E I P
N S Z O D R V Q D U I N O L E
E R O M R E V E R O F U P D C
H G N O P U K E R A J O L O S
A T U R N P J C F O B M E E T
N N S T R A E H I O F I T R S
D E T T O L L A I W R N D S E
S T V C R O O K E D U T Z E R
M O V E D E M I T O E O H S S
T S E L A N D V M P E A C E K

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore. For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong. Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts! But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!

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BLC NEWS & NOTES

ALTAR FLOWERS – Today's altar flowers are given by Julie & Ken Thompson in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a special called congregational meeting after worship on August 16, 2020, for the purpose of creating a paid youth ministry coordinator position and amending the 2020 church budget to pay for such position.

No other matters may be discussed at this meeting.

Information regarding this meeting will be publicized in the weeks before and all congregants are asked to direct any questions to Pastor or members of Council. Please pray for guidance on this matter.

Thank you.....Beth Helmly, Council President.

DEADLINE APPROACHING: JULY 31– We're making good progress on the Photo Directory Update. Please remember to submit all photos and/or information that you would like included to blc.rincon@gmail.com. Feel free to contact Pastor Dave or myself with any questions you may have. Thank you. Deb (cell: 912-344-7381)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS – We will have our Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 2nd, during church service. Please bring your backpack to receive a blessing. Thanks!

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JUNE 2020

June 2020	Beginning Bal.	Donations	Expenses	Ending Bal.
General Fund	\$155,899.13	\$12,728.50	(\$15,177.63)	\$153,450.00
Building Fund	\$60,835.33	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$61,435.33
Cemetery Fund	\$3,340.33	\$0.29	\$0.00	\$3,340.62
Theological Fund	\$3,647.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,647.20
Memorial Fund	\$7,515.98	\$0.12	\$0.00	\$7,516.10
Youth Fund	\$15,569.61	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$16,069.61
Total Funds	\$246,807.58	\$13,828.91	(\$15,177.63)	\$245,458.86

General Fund Donations June 2020	\$12,728.50
Monthly General Fund Requirement	- \$ 17,727.08
Over/(Short) General Fund for June 2020	(\$4,998.58)

PLAN AHEAD:

7/28 Christian Ed Mtg. @ 3PM
7/28 Evangelism Mtg. 7:00 PM
8/2 Blessing of the Backpacks - during Worship
8/6 Property Committee Mtg. @ 6:30 PM
8/9 Sunday School Kick-off/Promotion
8/10 Church Council Mtg. @ 6:30 PM
8/10-8/12 Fellowship Hall being used by Board of Elections
8/18 Quilter's Group 10A-2PM (Bring lunch 😊)
8/18 AFPAG (Foster Parents) Mtg. @ 6:00 PM
8/19 Christian Ed Mtg. 5:30 PM
8/24 Annual GRITS Mtg Helmly River House
8/29 Fellowship Hall being rented

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVANTS:

Crucifer –
Announcer – Andy Dasher
Altar Care – Sandra White
Head Usher – Walton White
Lector –
Musician – Karen Warnell