

Joy Lutheran Church

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July 26, 2020 Confirmation Sunday



Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, divorced, married, widowed, or if your relationship status is “complicated.”

We are glad you are here if you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You're welcome if you know the Bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what He is all about.

We welcome you if you have doubts about “organized religion” or are a “cradle Christian.” We welcome liberals, conservatives, moderates, and undecided. If you cheer for the right team, or don't like sports, you are welcome here.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you and so do we!

Children are always welcome here. We are used to the joyful sounds of our youngest sisters and brothers. We do have some activity bags near the main entrance, to keep restless hands busy. Due to COVID-19 we discourage use of our Family Room right now.



Flowers are given
by the Lanehart family
in honor of the confirmation students



Introduction

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, 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!

Welcome/Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

C: **and also with you.**

Confession/Forgiveness

ALL: **We confess that we have too often forgotten that we are yours.**

Sometimes we carry on our lives as if there was no God

and we fall short of being a credible witness to You.

For these things we ask your forgiveness and we also ask for your strength.

Give us clear minds and open hearts that we might trust in You

and witness to others. Remind us to be who You would have us to be

regardless of what we are doing or who we are with.

Pastor: The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness.

God does not deal with us according to our sins.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is God's loving kindness toward those who trust in Him.

As far as the east is from the west,

God forgives our transgressions

in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Verses

Cantor:



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:
 2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:
 3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple:
 4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:

All:



Cantor:

Salt for the King - dom of God! Share the fla - vor of
 Light for the Cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and
 Bring forth the King - dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and
 Bound for the King - dom of God! Love our jour - ney and

All:



life, O peo - ple: Life in the King - dom of God!
 bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King - dom of God!
 seeds of jus - tice, Grow in the King - dom of God!
 love our home - land; Love is the King - dom of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the King - dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the



King - dom of peace; Bring forth the King - dom of jus - tice,



Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

Reading

Romans 8:26-39

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.

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.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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.

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.”

Sermon

Pr. Karen Sonray

Hymn

Borning Cry

ELW 732



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Rite of Confirmation

Presentation of Confirmands by Sue Weimer, Congregational President

Introductory Speeches - Riley Lanehart, Ilkka Saarinen, Mauri Saarinen

Confession of Faith

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Prayer for Holy Spirit - *Family comes forward to place hand on heads*

Benediction



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

LIST OF MITIGATION RULES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

1. Wear your face mask. We will have extras if you do not have one. Pastor will be more than 10 ft away and remove her mask while presiding.
2. We ask you leave 3 empty chairs (i.e. 6 ft.) between you and anyone not in your household if you are sitting in the same row.
3. We are limiting our capacity to 50 people.
4. We are not using hymnals.
5. We will be initiating communion, practicing good protocol limited to wafers and no cup. This will be held monthly at first.
6. We will HUM rather than SING initially. Studies show that singing projects more air than coughing.
7. We will limit the worship service to approximately 30 minutes, since the longer people share the same air space the odds of spreading germs increase.
8. We will not have any contact during the passing of the peace but will stay at 6 ft. distances- sharing a peace sign, wave, hand over heart, or clasped hands and bow.
9. Offering Plates are placed in stationary positions to avoid the passing of the plate. Thank you for giving your offerings there.
10. We ask you to FILL OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER inside your bulletin and place it in the Offering Plate.
11. As you are dismissed, we will exit in a staggered rhythm to decrease proximity to one another.
12. If you use a bathroom, please clean all touchable surfaces before and after usage. Disinfectant spray and paper towels are available in each bathroom.
13. Please do not linger too long in the Sanctuary. If you would like to visit, we suggest you do so outdoors while maintaining 6 ft. distances.
14. All coffee and food is suspended at this time.

Events in July

TODAY - Confirmation Sunday - We will confirm 3 young people! Congratulations Riley Lanehart, Ilkka Saarinen, and Mauri Saarinen!

Virtual VBS: “Splash in God’s Love!”

- Thank you to all whom helped set up our online VBS. It was a phenomenal success! We had 17 families pick up 34 packets. The virtual VBS site will remain up until the end of the summer - check it out!

Thank you Elaine Pfeiffer for today’s music.