This morning’s worship is offered by St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Cedar Falls

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Elizabeth Popplewell

OPENING HYMN 513

Title: Like the Murmer of the Dove’s Song
Meter: 87. 87. 6 Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) Music: Bridegroom, Peter Catts (b. 1937) Copyright: Words: Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Permission to reprint and podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A709426.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God’s Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.
COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Celebrant may say
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. Amen

GLORIA

Words and music by Sharon Anway 2003

Chorus: Glory to God in the highest, and peace, peace to all God's people; Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth. (repeat)

Holy God, Most High, Source of light and goodness,
We will worship you and praise you forever! Chorus
Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior, Lamb of God,
You take away our sins and lead us to God. Chorus

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

A Reading from the First Book of Kings

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And 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. And 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. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give 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?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God 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, I 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.”

After the Lesson the Reader says
The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119: 129-136

129 Your decrees are wonderful; * therefore I obey them with all my heart.

The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

July 26, 2020
When your word goes forth it gives light; *  
it gives understanding to the simple.
I open my mouth and pant; *  
I long for your commandments.
Turn to me in mercy, *  
as you always do to those who love your Name.
Steady my footsteps in your word; *  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
Rescue me from those who oppress me, *  
and I will keep your commandments.
Let your countenance shine upon your servant *  
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears, *  
because people do not keep your law

A Reading from Romans

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. And 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.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For 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. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He 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? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who 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. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor 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.

After the Lesson the Reader says
The Word of the Lord.
People   Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN   We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed   Words: Mary Bryan Matney, 1990
Music: melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816
Melody vocal: Betsy Zan
Harmony, vocal, guitar, mandolin, and arrangement: Sharon Anway
Celebrant  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

People  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it 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.”

He 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.”

“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.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he 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 caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out 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 furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And 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.”

Celebrant  The Gospel of the Lord.

People  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

The Rev. Elizabeth Duff Popplewell

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

People and Celebrant
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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.
Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud or in the chat space below.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING COLLECT all say

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart;
Bring hope and courage to us as we wait in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead.
Bring courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
for your will is health and wholeness;
You are God, and we need You. Amen.
THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Response Thanks be to God.

HYMN 439 What Wondrous Love is This

Unison

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on, and

caused the Lord of bliss to lay aside his crown for my
is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will
sing and joyful be, and through eternity I’ll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme I will sing.
on, I’ll sing on, and through eternity I’ll sing on.

Title: What wondrous love is this
Meter: 12 9. 12 9
Words: American folk hymn, ca. 1835
Music: Wondrous Love, from The Southern Harmony, 1835; alt. acc.
Carlton R. Young, (b. 1926). Used by permission. Permission to reprint and podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A709426.

DISMISSAL

Response Thanks be to God.

We invite you to join us online next week for worship offered by our EPIC campers at 10:00am.

To learn more about the ministry of St. Luke’s in Cedar Falls, visit http://stlukescf.org