

**WORSHIP BULLETIN FOR
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST YEAR A**
Sunday, July 26, 2020

PRELUDE Solemn Processional Robert A. Harris (b. 1938)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive 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 us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

#771



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



Refrain
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Continued on next page...

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

Pastor Johanna Rehbaum

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And 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. ⁷And 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. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God 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, ¹²I 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.”

Thanks be to God.

When your word is o - pened, it gives

light and un - der - stand - ing.

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,

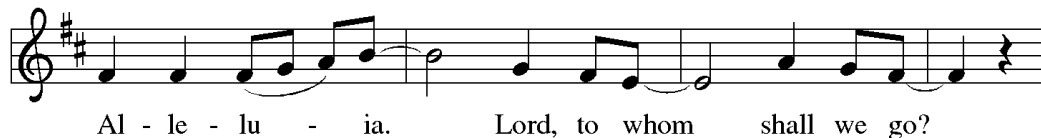
“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: 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.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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;³² 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.”

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION (from ELCA.org “*Worship in the Home*” Resources)

Having read these readings, think of this:

It is not only that we do not know how to pray as we ought in this hard time. And it is not only that we do not have enough wisdom for the challenges we are facing. It is also, if we speak of the actual situation of our current world, that we are genuinely “being killed all day long” by “hardship or distress or peril” and certainly by disease. But there is light and wisdom and life in the word we read today. Jesus Christ himself is the finder of the treasure and the pearl, and he gives these away to us. His despised cross, his death with us, is the “bush” which becomes a tree in which we may shelter. The risen presence of this crucified one is like the bread of the woman, enough for a multitude and life-giving, though usual religion, worried about both leaven and the cross, would call it unclean. Such is the surprising dominion of God. Nothing can separate us from this love, even if we do not understand it. And the Spirit helps us in our weakness to pray for our needy world in this time and to pray that our leaders might have something like Solomon’s wisdom.

SERMON

Pastor Johanna Rehbaum

HYMN OF THE DAY

What God Ordains is Good Indeed

#776



1 What God or - dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
2 What God or - dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
3 What God or - dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
4 What God or - dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
on dan-ger's path, in deep - est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
Music: WAS GOTT TUT, Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682
Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

We rejoice in the baptism this morning of Bobby Samuelson.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**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.**

**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.**

MUSICAL SELECTION: *Do Not Be Afraid* Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by your name; you are mine.

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;
you will never sink beneath the waves.
When the fire is burning all around you,
you will never be consumed by the flames.

When the fear of loneliness is looming,
then remember I am at your side.
When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,
remember you are precious in my eyes.

You are mine, O my child, I am your Father,
and I love you with a perfect love.

(Text by Gerard Markland)

OFFERING *Use this time to make a gift online, or write a check to be mailed in,
to sustain the ministries of the Church.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC: "Don't let it break your heart" by Louis Tomlinson (b. 1991)
 Amelia Samuelson, piano

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:
our selves, our time, and our possessions.
Use us, and what we have given, in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: ... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share peace with those around you or online, or write down the name of someone you will text or call later to check up on them and spread Christ's peace to them.

MOMENTS FOR MISSION

BLESSING

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.
God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

We've Come This Far by Faith

#633

Refrain – All



We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;
trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.

Continued on next page...

Leader

1 Just re-mem-ber the good things God has
2 Don't be dis-cour-aged with trou-ble in your

done, things that seemed im-pos-si-ble; oh,
life; he'll bear your . . . bur-dens, and

praise him for the vic-t'ries he has won. Oh!
move . . . all the dis-cord and strife. Oh!

Refrain

Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1933–2003
 Music: THIS FAR BY FAITH, Albert A. Goodson
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Bagatelle Op. 5, No. 1

Alexander Tcherepnin (1899-1977)

Notes on Today's Music

American composer Robert A. Harris is professor emeritus at Northwestern University. As a pedagogue, Harris has been invited to universities and choral conferences around the world to serve as a guest conductor, clinician and lecturer. He is known for his workshops and masterclasses on conducting and African American spirituals.

Between 1912 and 1918, the young Russian composer Alexander Tcherepnin composed the ten short bagatelles that comprise his Op. 5 collection. Bagatelles are typically short pieces written for the piano, with no particular formal structure, and are characterized by their light and "unpretentious" style. Francois Couperin was the first composer to use the term, and Ludwig van Beethoven was an early champion of the genre, writing multiple sets of bagatelles (Op. 119 and 126). His most famous bagatelle is his Work Without Opus (WoO) 59, No. 25 in A Minor - popularly known as "Für Elise".

Born in England, Philip Stopford received formative education as a chorister at Westminster Abbey in London, and later would study music at the University of Oxford. He currently serves as director of music at Christ Church Bronxville in New York City.

Do Not Be Afraid is quickly rising as a contemporary standard in the sacred choral repertoire. It speaks to the reassurance that God walks beside us through our entire life journey, even through our most perilous times. The recording you will hear today is a gift to Bobby Samuelson and his family, as he receives the promises of baptism.

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Psalm 119:130
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