



SOTC Worship
July 23 2023
Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

Gathered in the presence of God and one another, let us confess our sins.

Silence for reflection.

Good and gracious God,
to you all hearts are open and all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

By water and the Word the Holy Spirit gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of + Jesus Christ, you are forgiven of all your sin. May the God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and fill you with abundant and eternal life.

Amen.

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.

KYRIE

See Liturgy Packet

HYMN OF PRAISE

See Liturgy Packet

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

————— **WORD** —————

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for illumination from God's word. Take a moment for silent reflection.

READING: ISAIAH 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

PSALM: PSALM 86:11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
¹²**I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.**
¹³For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
¹⁴**O God, the insolent rise up against me;
a band of ruffians seeks my life,
and they do not set you before them.**

¹⁵But you, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your serving girl.**

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Liturgy Packet

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has

done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

THE REIGN OF GOD, LIKE FARMER'S FIELD

The reign of God, like farmer's field,
bears weeds along with wheat;
the good and bad are intertwined
till harvest is complete.

The reign of God is like a pearl
on barren land concealed.
If once you find that precious pearl,
go out and buy that field.

Though hidden now, the reign of God
may, yet unnoticed, grow;
from deep within it rises up,
like yeast in swelling dough.

Like mustard tree, the reign of God
from tiny seed will spread,
till birds of ev'ry feather come
to nest, and there be fed.

The reign of God is come in Christ;
the reign of God is near.
A blaze among us, kindling hearts,
the reign of God is here!

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

See Liturgy Packet

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

See Liturgy Packet

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Receive the bread with open hands, and receive either the wine (red liquid) or juice (clear liquid). If you do not desire to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the server.

LAMB OF GOD

See Liturgy Packet

COMMUNION SONG

BLESSED ASSURANCE

ELW 638

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

————— **SENDING** —————

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

ON WHAT HAS NOW BEEN SOWN

ELW 550

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

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