



SOTC Worship
July 30 2023
Ninth 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

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son, you redeem us, restoring us to relationship with you so that nothing could ever keep us from your grace. By your Spirit, cast out all that keeps us from you, and sow in us the seed of your kingdom, that we may treasure the life that comes only from 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: 1 KINGS 3:5-12

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 therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

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."

PSALM: PSALM 119:129-136

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

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:26-39

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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Liturgy Packet

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

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

³¹Jesus 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 our Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God". It features two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). Above the staff, the chords D, F#m, G, D, and G are indicated. The lyrics are written below the staff, with three verses. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The lyrics are: "1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its", "2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and", "3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by", "righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be", "you shall find; knock and the door shall be", "ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the".

add-ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

————— **SENDING** —————

BLESSING

Leader
D G/D D D/F# All G D/F# A D

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the king-dom of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the cit - y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the word, O peo-ple: bring forth the king-dom of God!
 4 We are a blest and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the king-dom of God!

Leader
G D/F# G A D All G D/F# A D

Share the fla - vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the king - dom of God!
 Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king - dom of God!
 Seeds of mer - cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king - dom of God!
 Love our jour - ney and love our home - land: love is the king - dom of God!

Refrain
G D/F# Em A D G D/F#

Bring forth the king - dom of mer - cy, bring forth the

Em A D G D/F# G A D

king - dom of peace; bring forth the king - dom of jus - tice,

G D/F# Em/G A D G D/F# A D

bring forth the cit - y of God!

DISMISSAL

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

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