



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Pontiac, IL
July 26, 2020
8th Sunday after Pentecost**

We gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.

Welcome

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Whether you have worshipped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

God's Peace be with you,
Pastor Mathew

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Friday is Pastor Mathew's day off.

Introduction to the day

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!

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we have not trusted your abundance in our lives.
we rely on our own efforts.

Forgive us, O God.

we fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
we abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

Forgive us, O God.

we fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.

Forgive us, O God.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace,

Forgive us, O God.

Loved ones of God,
by the wide abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. Let the church say amen.

Amen.

Greeting

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

A: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

Reading – Romans 8: 26-39

L: A reading from Romans.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. ²⁷ The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will. ²⁸ We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ We know this because God knew them in advance, and he decided in advance that they would be conformed to the image of his Son. That way his Son would be the first of many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ Those who God decided in advance would be conformed to his Son, he also called. Those whom he called, he also made righteous. Those whom he made righteous, he also glorified.

³¹ So what are we going to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect people? It is God who acquits them. ³⁴ Who is going to convict them? It is Christ Jesus who died, even more, who was raised, and who also is at God's right side. It is Christ Jesus who also pleads our case for us.

³⁵ Who will separate us from Christ's love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

We are being put to death all day long for your sake.

We are treated like sheep for slaughter.^[a]

³⁷ But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. ³⁸ I'm convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers ³⁹ or height or depth, or any other thing that is created.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

Gospel—Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ He told another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. ³² It’s the smallest of all seeds. But when it’s grown, it’s the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches.” ³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast, which a woman took and hid in a bushel of wheat flour until the yeast had worked its way through all the dough.”

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that somebody hid in a field, which someone else found and covered up. Full of joy, the finder sold everything and bought that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. 46 When he found one very precious pearl, he went and sold all that he owned and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that people threw into the lake and gathered all kinds of fish. 48 When it was full, they pulled it to the shore, where they sat down and put the good fish together into containers. But the bad fish they threw away. 49 That’s the way it will be at the end of the present age. The angels will go out and separate the evil people from the righteous people, 50 and will throw the evil ones into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.

51 “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. They said to him, “Yes.” 52 Then he said to them, “Therefore, every legal expert who has been trained as a disciple for the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings old and new things out of their treasure chest.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

A: **Praise to you, O, Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Mathew Berger

Special Music

“Nothing Can Separate Us”

David Baloché

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends “Turn to us, O God.” The congregation is invited to respond, “**be gracious to us.**”

Sharing the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: **And also with you.**

You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by saying or typing, “Peace be with you.”

Offerings can be given by mail or online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764. You can give online at <http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/>

Offering Prayer

L: God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

A: **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

A: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

Preface

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name forever.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,
A: **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.**

Invitation to Communion

L: Friends of Jesus, share in this meal. Receive nourishment for your journey.

Prayer after Communion

L: God of the welcome table,
In this meal we have feasted on your goodness
And have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
So that we may share your neighborly love with all,
Through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

A: **Amen.**

Announcements

SENDING

Benediction

L: 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.

A: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

A: Thanks be to God.

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Thank you to all those who contributed to today's service: Worship Slides: Julie
Mehlberg, Lector: Judy Sykes, Ushers: Ted & Ginger Bauknecht, Musician: Sandy
Erickson.