

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost, July 26, 2020**  
**Zoom Service 10:30 AM**  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**Greeting**

**P** 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**

**P** Let us pray.

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.

**A Amen.**

## Reading from the New Testament, Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>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? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

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

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>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.

## Psalm 119:129-136



<sup>129</sup>Your de- | crees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

<sup>130</sup>**When your word is opened | it gives light;  
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup>I open my | mouth and pant  
because I long for | your commandments.

<sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,  
as you always do to those who | love your name.**

<sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps | in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

<sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,**

**and I will keep | your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant  
and teach | me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed | streams of tears,  
because people do not | keep your teaching.**

### **GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>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.”

<sup>33</sup>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.”

<sup>44</sup>“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.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>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.”

### **Sermon**

## HYMN: Children of the Heavenly Father, ELW 781

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the remaining lines. The music is a simple, folk-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958  
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune  
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## Prayers of the People

From our many locations, yet held in one body by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, both muted and un-muted.

For the church, O God of mercy, we pray. Open your word to Christians around the world. Reveal yourself to us in ways both traditional and surprising, in places old and new. Bless church leaders, especially our bishops Elizabeth and Yehiel, Pastor Kim, our president Scott, our call committee, reopening team, and council.

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

For education and nurture in the church, O God of wisdom, we pray. Give us the will to seek your wisdom. Guide the many churches in their uses of technology, and show us during this time the many and varied ways you desire to be present to us and continue to hold us together in you. As this week we commemorate J. S. Bach and other musicians, accompany all church musicians as they seek to help the church offer its praise.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the earth, O creative God, we pray. Give to plants and animals the water and land they require. Form us into grateful and healing caretakers of your earth. Inspire health care workers and medical researchers as they work on our behalf. Guide and watch over all first responders and essential workers. Bring meaningful work to those who are furloughed and assist the unemployed in finding a job. Help us all work together for the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the nations, O God of justice, we pray. Direct world leaders to build trust with each other and to resist the ways of violence. Stifle the lust for conquest. Bring peace to the Middle East and Hong Kong. Move us away from racist attitudes and policies. Form our president, governor, and legislators to speak with honesty, to strive for justice, and to work to alleviate the nation's needs.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For all in need, O God of compassion, we pray. Heal the sick. Feed the hungry. House the refugee and homeless. Comfort the countless thousands who are dealing with the coronavirus. Accompany those living with anxiety and despair. Form us to be your arms of mercy. We pray especially for Steve Andes, Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Babs Deacon, Lucas Forzley, Bob Fried, Kim Gann, Jennifer Grethe, Sonny Griffin, John and Nancy, Judith Kratochvil, Ernie LeVon, Rowan Lopes, the Lamberg Family, Alfhild Wikstrom, Sara Mauk, Annette, Peter, and Benjamin Mauk-O'Connor, Elaine Nelson, Darryl Simchak, Alyssa Steinberg, and those we name now, muted or un-muted: (longer pause)

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

For the youth, O God of grace, we pray. Give our youth around the globe an inspiring dream of what their future might be. Give them patience to await a time of safety. Direct all schools from daycare through graduate school to find an acceptable way forward for learning and growth.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

And for what else, siblings in Christ, do we pray or give thanks for today: (longer pause)

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our Prayer.**

In gratitude for the lives of Ingvar Wikstrom, Alexander Lamberg, Humberto Garcia, and all our beloved dead, we pray that nothing, neither death nor life, will separate us from your love. At the end, gather us with all your saints in light everlasting.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Peace**

**Offertory: Poem: "Small Wire" by Anne Sexton**

And now, as we unmute ourselves for the Great Thanksgiving we pray together:

**Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to all be blessed.**

**Feed us with your living bread, that all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

**The 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.**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,

in the harmonious world of your creation,

the plants and animals,

the seas and stars

were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,

you sent your Son to heal our ills

and to form us again into one.

For 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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his acts of healing,  
his body given up,  
and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.  
For this we pray: **Amen! Come Lord Jesus!**

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.  
For this we pray: **Amen! Come, Holy Spirit!**

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**A 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.**

## **Communion**

The eyes of all wait upon you, O God, and you give them their food in due season.  
**You open wide your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing.**

**This is the body of Christ, given for you.**

*All communing may receive their bit of bread from God's hand, and may share with others in their household also using these words.*

**This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.**

*All communing may drink of the cup they have prepared, and may share with others in their household also using these words.*

*For those fasting, receive this prayer of blessing in God's presence:*

May God who loves you be truly present with the Spirit of grace, mercy and joy, uplifting and blessing you in the promise of your baptism.

## **Table Dismissal and Benediction**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.  
**Amen.**

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.**

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

**Coffee hour/chat**



## **Opportunities for this Week**

### **Wednesday, July 29: 7 pm Adult Spiritual Growth Discussion and Prayer at Close of Day**

Our July series on racism concludes as we revisit the ELCA pledge to be anti-racist individuals and an anti-racist church and set forth some next steps.

### **Members in the News**

ABC 7 recently ran a spot on our member, Sarah Stegner, and her Prairie Grass community project to provide free meals to medical staff at Swedish Covenant Hospital. Member Faith Yarnoff is also involved. You can watch the video at <https://abc7chicago.com/community-events/award-winning-chef-feeds-hospital-workers-helps-local-farmers/6310338/>