**St. John’s & St. Peter’s**

## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

## ~ July 23, 2023 ~

**Gathering**

 **Welcome & Announcements**

**\* Confession & Forgiveness** WOV pg. 10

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

 ***C: Amen.***

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

 ***C: Amen.***

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

 P: Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

 ***C: Amen.***

***\** Entrance Hymn *“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”*** *ELW #786*

Vs. 1 O Holy Spirit, enter in, and in our hearts your

 work begin, and make our hearts your dwelling. Sun of the soul,

 O Light divine, around and in us brightly shine, your strength

 in us upwelling. In your radiance life from heaven now is

 given overflowing, gift of gifts beyond all knowing.

Vs. 2 Left to ourselves, we surely stray; oh, lead us on the

 narrow way, with wisest counsel guide us; and give us stead-

 fastness, that we may follow you forever free, no

 matter who derides us. Gently heal those hearts now broken; give some

 token you are near us, whom we trust to light and cheer us.

Vs. 3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in

 doubt and strife be in us strongly burning, that we be faith-

 ful unto death and live in love and holy faith, from you

 true wisdom learning. Lord, your mercy on us shower; by your

 power Christ confessing, we will cherish all your blessing.

 **Greeting** *WOV pg. 28*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the

Holy Spirit be with you all. ***C: And also with you.***

**\* Kyrie***WOV pg. 28*

 L: Kyrie eleison:

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

 L: Christe eleison:

 ***C: Christ, have mercy.***

 L: Kyrie eleison:

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

**\* Hymn of Praise** *WOV pg.29*

 Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

 Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

 Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

 Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

 Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

 Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone

are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

 Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

 Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth,

 And peace to God’s people on earth.

**\* Prayer of the Day**

 P: Faithful God,

***C: 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**

**First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8**

*There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.*

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 86:11-17**

11Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

**12I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name for- evermore. Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth.**

13For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

**14The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;**  **they have not set you before their eyes.**

15But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

**16Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

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.

**Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25**

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.*

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.

**\* Gospel Acclamation** *WOV pg. 31*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

**\* Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

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!"

 **Sermon**

 **Hymn of the Day *“Come, Ye Thankful People Come”*** ELW #693

Vs.1 Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
 All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
 God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
 Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

Vs. 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
 wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
 Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

Vs. 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take the harvest home;
 from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
 give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Vs. 4 Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
 Gather then thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
 there, forever purified, in thy garner to abide.
 Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!

\* **Apostles’ Creed** *WOV pg. 33*

 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 bur ied; 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.

**\* The Prayers**

  ***Lord, listen to your children praying,*** *WOV #775*

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction (*especially*).

Sustain your people living with HIV/AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

 ***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

**Meal**

 **Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

 ***C: And also with you.***

**\* Offering *“Let the vineyards”*** *WOV pg. 35*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

 blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

 that we may be fed with the bread of life.

 Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we

 offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord,

 and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**\* Offering Prayer**

P: Merciful God,

***C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given to us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**\* Great Thanksgiving** *WOV pg. 36*P: The Lord be with you.

 ***C: And also with you.***

 P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

 ***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**\* Words of Institution** *WOV pg. 36*

 P: 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 death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

***C: Amen.***

**\* Lord’s Prayer** *WOV pg. 39*

***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**

**\*Communion Blessing**

 P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his

 grace.

 ***C: Amen.***

**\* Canticle** *WOV Pg. 40*

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell every-

one what God has done. Let all who seek the

Lord rejoice and bear Christ’s holy name.

Send us with your promises, O God,

and lead us forth in joy with shouts

Of thanksgiving. Alleluia.

**\* Prayer** WOV Pg. 41

P:Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. ***C: Amen.***

 **Sending**

**\* Blessing** WOV Pg. 41

 P: Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

 **C: Amen.**

**I**

**\* Sending Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”** ELW #631

Vs. 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to

 earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy

 faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion,
 pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with

 thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Vs. 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry

 troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us

 find thy promised rest. Take away the love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as

 its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Vs. 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy

 life receive; suddenly return, and never, never-

 more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing,
 serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee

 without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Vs. 4 Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless

 let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly

 restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory,
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

 crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!

**\* Dismissal**

 L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

 ***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***