

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

August 3, 2025

9:00 am

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #842 "Oh, Worship the King" (1-3)

- 1. O worship the King all-glorious above, O gratefully sing his power and his love: our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**
- 2. The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty your power has founded of old; established it fast by a changeless decree, and rounded it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.**
- 3. Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

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Prayer of the Day

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Psalm: Psalm 49:1-12

¹ Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

² you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.

³ My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

⁴ I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

⁵ Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

⁶ the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?

⁷ One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;

⁸ for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,

⁹ in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

¹⁰ For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

¹² Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.
(Matt. 5:3)

The Gospel according to Luke starting with the 12th Chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #676

"Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak"

- 1. Lord, speak to me that we may speak In living echoes of your tone;
As you have sought, so let us seek Your straying children, lost and lone.**
- 2. Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead The wandering and the wavering feet;
Oh, feed us, Lord, that we may feed Your hungering ones with manna sweet.**
- 3. Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach The precious truths which you impart,
And wing our words, that they may reach The hidden depths of many a heart.**
- 4. Oh, fill us with your fullness, Lord, Until our very hearts overflow In kindling
thought and glowing word, Your love to tell, your praise to show.**

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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.

Sharing of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayers of Intercession (God of grace: Hear our prayer)

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

Gracious Lord, renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. We pray: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, grant to our earth, for our crops in our fields and gardens, and all vegetation the bounteous rain and fair weather. Provide your protection and restoration for areas throughout our country and world who have experienced turbulent weather. We pray: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, empower the rulers of the nations to fulfill the mission to care for the poor, the sick, the oppressed and the imprisoned. Clothe all people in your image and may justice and peace reign as we seek to do your will on earth as in heaven. We pray: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, for all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. We pray especially for Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry,

Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Nathan, Sue Bogenschutz, and the Tryhus Family. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. We pray: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, store up in our congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of our leaders and members who encourage the ministries of our congregation and our sister congregations throughout the world on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community. Empower us to be ready to assist those who seek our help. We pray: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Offering and Offertory Hymn: ELW #186

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offering Prayer

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Communion Hymn: ELW #471 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.**

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.**

- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]**
- 3. Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]**

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Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessing

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW #545 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

- 1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.**
- 2. Thanks we give and adoration for the gospel's joyful sound:
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound!
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.**
- 3. Savior when your love shall call us from our struggling way, let no fear of
death appall us, glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever, reign with you in endless day.**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

- ✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Nathan, Sue Bogenschutz, and the Tryhus Family.

- ✚ **Directory Update:** Please check your contact information in the directory in the Fellowship Hall. If it is correct as is, please place a check mark so we know it has been approved.

- ✚ **Crossroads Campus Ministry Board Members Urgently Needed:** Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry is seeking passionate, dedicated individuals to serve on its Board of Directors. If you care about supporting college students in their faith journeys and want to help guide a vital ministry in our community, we'd love to hear from you! Board members provide leadership, vision, and support to the ministry's mission on the Minnesota State Mankato campus. For more information or to express interest, please contact Pastor Jenna Couch at: pastorjenna@gmail.com, or 507-200-8096.

- ✚ **Sunday School** is a very important resource for our youth. We are searching for one of more volunteers to provide this resource to our children/grandchildren. If you are interested please speak with Bob or Eric.

- ✚ **Concert & Cream** has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025. Meal starts at 5:30 pm, concert at 6:30 pm.

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