



Sunday, July 26, 2020 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
Greendale, WI www.ssmelca.org

Introduction to the day

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!

PRELUDE - "There is a Balm in Gilead" *arr. Thomas Keesecker*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: **We confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all,

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

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

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P: Beloved of God,

by the radical 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.

C: **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.

C: **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE - "Come and Fill Our Hearts"



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community
Music: CONFITEMINI DOMINO, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: **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.**

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12 (Read by Teri Peterson)

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

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."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39*(Read by Teri Peterson)*

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

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

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE - Invasive

Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY - “Healer of Our Every Ill”

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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

L: 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, responding together,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For the church, O God of mercy, we pray. Reveal yourself to us in ways both traditional and surprising, in places old and new. Bless our bishops, pastors, deacons, and other church leaders, as they face their challenging tasks. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: 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 ways to study your words. 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,

C: hear our prayer.

L: 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. Bless the efforts of scientist and researchers, especially those seeing a vaccine. Lead all people to honor the scientific discoveries that you grant to humankind. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For the nations, O God of justice, we pray. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and to resist the ways of violence. Stifle the lust for conquest. Bring peace to the Middle East. 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,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For all in need, O God of compassion, we pray. Heal the sick. Feed the hungry. House the refugee. 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For the youth, O God of grace, we pray. Give to the youth of afflicted nations 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Hear now, we pray, the petitions of our hearts, and petitions what we pray out loud. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In gratitude for the lives of our beloved dead, we pray that nothing, neither dead nor life, will separate us from your love. At the end, gather us with all your saints in light everlasting. Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

OFFERTORY (*Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.*)

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care. Use us and the gifts that you have entrusted to us in service to others.
C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C: Amen.

POSTLUDE - "Two Dances" by Thomas Keesecker

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Joyce Gagliano, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Shirley Lieske, Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Ron Ropel, John Winter.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of
Joan Retzlaff
Laurence Fremont, friend of SSM
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil &
LaVerne Morgan
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother in law
of Barbara & Dan Davies
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman
Linda Radike, friend of Julie Herman
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob
Lieske
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters &
Stepdad of Lori Salas
Mike Derrick, nephew of Ron & Carole Ropel
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb
Davies
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant
Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly
Rosenstock

Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller
Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue
Herman
Cameo Abifarin, friend of Julie Herman
Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda
Johnson
Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend
of the Homeless
Judy Ventimiglia, friend of Shelly Rosenstock
Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan
Kowalewski
Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of
Karen Miller
Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne
Niese
Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Steve, son of Louise Becker
Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Diane Schauer, friend of Carol Manning
Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske
Helen Miller, mother of Jenny Koeff
Rosa Hernandez, granddaughter of Mimi
Garcia