**9th Sunday After Pentecost- July 30, 2023- Zion, Philipsburg**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS (WOV p. 46)**

Good morning, welcome to worship on this last Sunday of July, the 9th Sunday after Pentecost.

We had some hot and sunny weather this week.

Today’s service is from the blue book WOV. The psalm and prayer response are found as an insert in your bulletin.

Today after the service we will be preparing our cheer bouquets. All are invited to stay after church for a little bit to prepare 2 bouquets, one to take home and one to share. There will also be some lemonade and cookies.

I am on holidays next week returning August 8. Pastor Tanya will be covering pastoral care up until and including August 6. If something happens on the 7th please call me. Next Sunday will be a hymn sing service. There is a clip board in the narthex, if you would like to write down your favourite hymn to sing both next Sunday and into the future.

A reminder of our Cemetery Decoration service on August 13, there will be no morning service that day. Worship begins at 2:00.

**We begin worship with our gathering hymn**

***Gather Us In* (WOV 718)**

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away--
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

**GREETING (WOV p. 46)**

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

**And also with you.**

You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**a people holy to the Lord our God.**

Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

One does not live by bread alone,

**but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

**SCRIPTURE SONG (WOV p. 47)**

All: **Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

I: **Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe;**

**just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.**

**Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?**

All: **Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

II: **For you alone are the Holy One.**

**All nations will draw near and worship before you,**

**for your just and holy works have been revealed.**

All: **Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (WOV p. 47)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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 LESSON: 1 Kings 3:5-12**

A reading from 1 Kings.

*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.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**WOV 738*Healer of Our Every Ill***

Refrain
Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. Refrain

2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. Refrain

3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. Refrain

4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. Refrain

**PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136- read responsively by whole verse**

 129Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.
 130**When your word is opened it gives light;** **it gives understanding to the simple.**
 131I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.
 132**Turn to me and be gracious to me,** **as you always do to those who love your name.**
 133Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.
 134**Rescue me from those who oppress me,** **and I will keep your commandments.**
 135Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.
 136**My eyes shed streams of tears,** **because people do not keep your teaching.**

**SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:26-39**

A reading from Romans.

*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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Word of Life (WOV p. 48)**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (WOV p. 48)**

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD: HYMN*Be Thou My Vision* (WOV 776)**

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION (WOV p. 49)**

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,** **creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit** **and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,** **was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**  **On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,** **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another. *Silence for reflection and self examination.*

Gracious God, **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**

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. **Amen**

**PEACE (WOV p. 50)**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Peace be with you.**

**OFFERTORY (WOV p. 50)**

**Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;** **yours the anointing, the radiant worth.**

**Ours the rejoicing for spirits aflame;** **ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.**

**Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;** **yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.**

Let us pray. God, our Creator,

**you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**PRAYERS of Intercession**

Our prayers today have a sung response which is found as an insert in your bulletin. The Spirit Intercedes for Us is taken from our Roman’s reading. Jane will play softly in the background during the intercessions, and we will join in for the response. We will sing it through once.

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

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We sing…

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. We sing…..

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. We sing…

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter all who are in poverty. Clothe the naked, wrap your loving arms around all who grieve. Heal the sick and injured especially Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Edna, Felix, Gary, Erin, Terry, Zoli, our members in long term care Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts (good pause). We sing….

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, those gathered here in person, those watching at home and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. We sing….

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. We sing….

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’S PRAYER (WOV p. 52)**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

**BLESSING (WOV p. 53)**

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

**Amen**

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**SENDING SONG*What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* (WOV 780)**

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain
Leaning, leaning, (Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, (leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. Refrain

**DISMISSAL (WOV p. 53)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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