

SERVICE WITHOUT COMMUNION: 8th Sunday after Pentecost – July 26, 2020

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In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: AT 394 Search me O God

1. Search me, O God,
and know my anxious heart.
Behind me and before me,
you lay your hand upon me.

2. Where might I hide
to flee your tender touch?
No darkness or the ocean
hides me from your devotion.

*You know my every need:
you know my thoughts,
my joy, my crying.
God, your wisdom ways
surround me at my birth,
my dying.*

3. Woven by you
deep in my mother's womb;
that moment of conception
you knew my life's direction.

4. Search me, O God,
and purify my ways.
O teach me love surpassing,
guide me in all that's lasting

*You know my every need:
 you know my thoughts,
 my joy, my crying.
 God, your wisdom ways
 surround me at my birth,
 my dying.*

(repeat v1)

1. Search me, O God,
 and know my anxious heart.
 Behind me and before me,
 you lay your hand upon me.

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CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord God, our heavenly Father, I am a sinner and I have sinned against you, not only in my words and actions, but also in my secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully know or understand, but which you know completely. I am sorry that I have displeased you, and repent of the evil I have done. For the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on me, forgive my sins, and graciously help me in my weakness. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

Amen.

AT 357 Give us hearts to know you, Lord

1. Give us hearts to know you, Lord,
to know who you are.

We will be your people
and you our God, and you our God.

2. Give us hearts to love you, Lord
to love who you are.

We will be your people
and you our God, and you our God.

3. Give us hearts to bless you, Lord,
to bless who you are.

We will be your people
and you our God, and you our God.

4. Give us hearts to serve you, Lord,
to serve who you are.

We will be your people
and you our God, and you our God.

5. Give us hearts to praise you, Lord
to praise who you are.

We will be your people
and you our God, and you our God.

6. Give us hearts to worship, Lord,
to worship who you are.

We will be your people,
and you our God, and you our God.

PSALM 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore my soul keeps them.

The unfolding of your words gives light;

it imparts understanding to the simple.

With open mouth I pant,

because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as is your custom towards those who love your name.

Keep my steps steady according to your promise,

and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

Redeem me from human oppression,

that I may keep your precepts.

Make your face shine upon your servant,

and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears

because your law is not kept.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever more,

Amen.

KYRIE:

Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy**

Christ have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy**

GLORIA: AT 633 Glory be to God

Glory be to God in heaven,

peace to those who love him well;

on the earth let all his people

speak his grace, his wonders tell:

Lord, we praise you for your glory,

mighty Father, heaven's king;

hear our joyful adoration
and accept the thanks we bring.

Only Son of God the Father,
Lamb who takes our sin away,
now with God in triumph seated -
for your mercy, Lord, we pray:
Jesus Christ, most high and holy,
Savior, you are God alone
in the glory of the Father
with the Spirit: Three-in-One!

Michael Perry, 1942-

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY (COLLECT)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray for gentleness. (silence)

Thank you, Jesus, our gentle king,
that you became a servant to all,
and gave up your life for us.

As your followers,
make us humble, so that, like you,
we serve others.

For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 3:5-12 Solomon's prayer for wisdom

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And 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 towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And 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. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give 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?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God 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, I 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.'

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTEL READING

Romans 8:26-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God

Likewise 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. 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.

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

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 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? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that 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 our Lord.

After the second reading:

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52 Parables of the kingdom

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 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.'

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.'

'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.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

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

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S ADDRESS - Pastor Fraser Pearce

SONG: AT 64 Nothing can separate us

Nothing can separate us from the love of God:
Neither death nor life nor any other power.
Nothing can separate us from his precious love
So do not fear, for you are his.
(repeat)

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SERMON - Pastor Fraser Pearce**CREED**

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

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence 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**

SONG – TIS 195 How deep is the love of our Lord

How deep is the love of my Lord.
How deep is the love of my Lord.
How wide is his mercy, how high is his grace.
How deep is the love of my Lord.

Outstretched arms welcome me,
wounded hands gently draw
till I rest securely in his embrace,
washed clean by his blood.

How deep is the love of my Lord.
How deep is the love of my Lord.
How perfect is beauty, how radiant in light.
How deep is the love of my Lord.

Outstretched arms welcome me,
wounded hands gently draw
till I rest securely in his embrace,
washed clean by his blood.

How deep is the love of my Lord.
How deep is the love of my Lord.
How gentle is Spirit, how mighty in power.
How deep is the love of my Lord.

Outstretched arms welcome me,
wounded hands gently draw
till I rest securely in his embrace,
washed clean by his blood.

Outstretched arms welcome me,
wounded hands gently draw
till I rest securely in his embrace,
washed clean by his blood.

How deep is the love of my Lord.
How deep is the love of my Lord.

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OFFERTORY – AT 269

Create in us a clean heart, O God.

**Renew within us a right spirit.
 Cast us not away from your presence, O Lord.
 and take not your Holy Spirit from us.
 Restore to us fullness of joy,
 the joy that springs from your salvation.
 Lighten our minds, shelter our lives
 with your Spirit free.**

Based on Psalm 51:10-12, AT 269 Used with permission

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
 Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you
 and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour,† and give
 you peace.
Amen.

SONG – AT 101 As we step from the edge of morning

1. As we step from the edge of morning,
Feet can't tell where to take us;
Here's a light that will shine for ever,
Here's the light that will guide us.

Jesus, please watch over us.
Jesus, please take care of us.

2. Trouble comes, and we search for safety,
We forget that you hold us;
Fill our minds so that we remember,
Say once more that you love us.

Jesus, please watch over us.
Jesus, please take care of us.

3. Danger meets us at every moment,
Death is never in hiding;
You are stronger than any danger,
You are stronger than dying.

Jesus, please watch over us.
Jesus, please take care of us.

3. Danger meets us at every moment,
Death is never in hiding;
You are stronger than any danger,
You are stronger than dying.

Jesus, please watch over us.
Jesus, please take care of us.