

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Priceless Treasure

July 23, 26 & 27, 2014

AS WE GATHER

Today, our Lord provides three more parables about the Kingdom of God. As people finding hidden, priceless treasure or a valuable pearl might sell other possessions for these, so the Kingdom (really, Jesus Himself) is worth more than all that we have. Like last Sunday's parables, Jesus' third parable is about the Last Day, providing urgency for being in the Kingdom now. In His great love, Moses reminded the people before they entered the Promised Land that God had chosen them (and now us) as His people. With His protection and defense, Paul affirms nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

WELCOME

"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #816 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" (Rise for last stanza)

From all that dwell below the skies Let the creator's praise arise; Alleluia, alleluia! Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies Lord: Eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia, alleluia! Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Rise

All praise to God the Father be, All praise, eternal Son, to Thee. Alleluia, alleluia! Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore: Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession,

People: that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Pastor: Now thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel:

People: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine."

Pastor: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,

People: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Heavenly Father, Creator of life and light,

People: we confess that we have not reflected your great love to us in sending your Son to give up everything, including life itself, so that you may own us as your beloved people. We have not loved the people around us as ourselves.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, our Redeemer,

People: we confess that we have not borne your name to the world. We have not loved you with all our heart, mind, and strength.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, the Comforter,

People: we confess that we have not shown your love to the people near and dear to us, nor to those with whom we learn, work, and play.

Pastor: O Holy Trinity,

People: forgive us and comfort us; surround us with your love so that we may be the treasured possessions you desire us to be. Forgive us for your name's sake. Amen.

Pastor: Rejoice and be glad! Our Lord Jesus Christ visited this dark world and gave His perfect life in payment for your sins. He has restored you to be fit for the Kingdom of God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #806 "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks, give thanks.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith,
hope, and love,

**People: that, receiving what you have promised, we may love what you have
commanded;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

9:00 RITE OF CONFIRMATION

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 7:6–9* (God chooses His people out of love.) For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:28–39* (For those who love God, all things work together for good.) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:44–52* (Three parables of the Kingdom.)

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied. He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #813 "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" (stanzas 1-4 & 7 rise for last stanza)

Rejoice, O pilgrim Throng! Rejoice, give thanks and sing;

Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

Refrain **Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

With voice as full and strong As ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. **Refrain**

Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,
Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng.

Refrain

Rise

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. **Refrain**

SERMON

"Buried Treasure"

Matthew 13:44-52

(Rise)

5:00 NICENE CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register for names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Father in heaven, fill our hearts with a love for you and your holy Word.

People: Grant us daily joy that you have made us your treasured possession for the sake of Christ.

Pastor: Lord of hosts, preserve all your children from doubt and despair, that we may always rejoice that the Lord Jesus sacrificed Himself to redeem us His people.

People: Fill us with faith that you will never forsake us, but that you come after us when we stray and call each of us by name.

Pastor: Loving Lord, we pray for a daily, rich life of prayer, that we might faithfully hear the Word of God and pray it back to Him,

People: trusting that our Father in heaven delights to hear and answer His children.

Pastor: Almighty God, you have endowed us with gifts and abilities to use to benefit others. Fill us with joy and contentment in our vocations, that we might find fulfillment in our various callings in life.

People: Give us the desire to willingly serve those whom God entrusts to our care, knowing that He works all things for good for those who love Him.

Pastor: Forgiving Father, we pray for those who are penitent but troubled by past sins and struggle with the temptation that they cannot be forgiven.

People: Grant them confidence in Christ alone, that he has died for them, intercedes for them, and that God has fully forgiven them for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: Compassionate Lord, we pray for those who are troubled, distressed, persecuted, deprived and endangered, asking your support, provision, and deliverance from their time of trial.

People: Open our eyes, also, to see how we might be your instruments to support and assist as we are able.

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son was known as the Great Physician. Therefore, we pray for those who are burdened by sickness and affliction especially Frank, Marion, Pastor Tom, Charles, Nancy, Gilberte, Laura, Jack, Ashley, Mark, Richard, Carol, Susan, Virginia, Rosalie, Dorothy, Ruth, Warren, Dorothy and Sarah.

People: As they await healing and deliverance, fill them with the firm conviction that nothing can separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: We join Al and Judy Weil in thanksgiving as they honor Henry and Eleanor Weil's 62nd wedding anniversary, and who also celebrate at Liz's 30th birthday, and the Vilter family celebrating the marriage of Nicole and Michael.

People: Bless these families as they rejoice in your many blessings.

Pastor: Loving Lord, we pray for those who partake of Holy Communion today, that they might do so with proper preparation and penitent hearts.

People: Grant us to rejoice that Christ intercedes for us at the right hand of God and is present with His body and blood in the Supper for the forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Pastor: Almighty God, who raised your Son from the dead, never to die again, we give thanks to you for all of the saints whom you kept in their baptismal grace throughout their living and their dying.

People: As you have granted us to be born again by water and the Spirit, we pray that you would faithfully preserve our life in Christ by means of your Word and Supper, that with all your people we also might rejoice in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Pastor: Dear Lord, this weekend we confirm Connor Knapp.

People: We thank you for his faith, and this lifelong journey begun in baptism and continued in your Word. Grant Connor your blessing and guidance as he walks with you.

Pastor: For those who mourn and remember, we pray the comfort of your presence and the healing power of the Gospel. This day we hold up to you Denton Ebert, who remembers with love his wife Linda, and the families of Ray Ziolecki and Corrinne Plopper, both of whom passed away these past few days.

People: Grant them hope and peace in the midst of their grief, and lead them through this difficult time.

Pastor: All these prayers and petitions along with those concerns and desires in our hearts we lift before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI #547

"The Lamb"

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain **Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!**
The Lamb is reigning on His throne.

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.

The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. *Refrain*
(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #623 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine Enrich us with Your grace divine.

Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n, The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive, And all we are to You we give.

One bread, one cup, one body, we, Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray: O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest In heaven's high and holy feast.

HYMN #622 "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared This feast for our salvation; It is your body
and your blood, And at your invitation As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We
come to you for needed rest, For comfort, and for pardon.

Although you did to heav'n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling, And in your
presence they behold your glory, all excelling, And though your people shall not
see your glory and your majesty Till dawns the judgment morning.

Yet, Savior, you are not confined To any habitation; But you are present even now Here with your congregation. Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand Or subtle craft and cunning.

We eat this bread and drink this cup, your precious Word believing That your true body and your blood Our lips are here receiving. This Word remains forever true, All things are possible with you, For you are Lord Almighty.

Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces: Your body, Lord, is even now At once in many places. I leave to you how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me; I trust its truth unailing.

Lord, I believe what you have said; Help me when doubts assail me. Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me. Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears And is my priceless treasure.

Grant that we worthily receive your supper, Lord, our Savior, And, truly grieving for our sins, May prove by our behavior That we are thankful for your grace And day by day may run our race, In holiness increasing.

For your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages! Preserve it, for in ev'ry place The world against it rages. Grant that this sacrament may be A blessed comfort unto me When living and when dying.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank you that for His sake you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask you not to forsake your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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 favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #924 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

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.

Thanks we give and adoration For Your 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.

Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way.
Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

Preacher & Liturgist
Liturgist (Wednesday)
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Seminarian Brad Akey
Bob Reynolds, Pat Graf, Dalen Heinzen
Thor Schultz, Jeff Moravec, Abbie Moravec
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller