

The **Kingdom** *of* **Heaven**

is like a merchant in search of fine
Pearls...



Matthew 13:45, NRSV



FAMILY OF GOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Children by grace,
Extending Christ's embrace"

July 26th, 2026
9th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am

Today we worship with the liturgy from
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) setting ten

Gather

Prelude
Welcome

"In the Garden"

arr. Mark Hayes

*Opening Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW 879

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n;

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Felliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.
 Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

DIX
 ??????

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.

Kyrie

§ 203

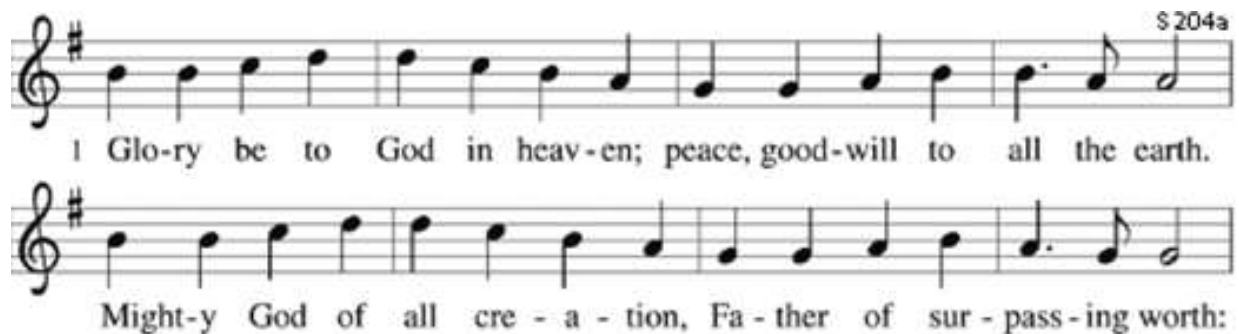


1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

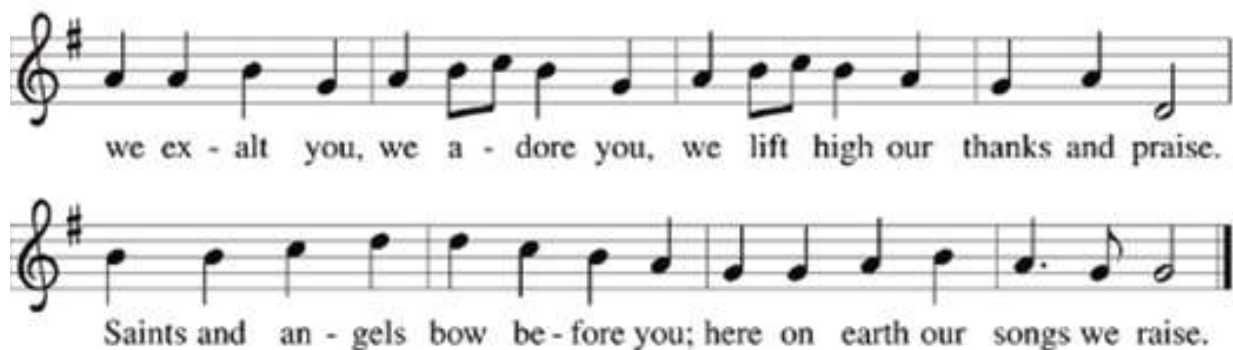
We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

* Hymn of Praise

§ 204a



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
 Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:



*Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Beloved and sovereign God,

C: 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.

Young Persons Message

Pastor Megan Tee

Word

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

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 great people of yours?"

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."

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Psalm

119:129-136

P: ¹²⁹Your de- | crees are wonderful;

C: Therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

P: ¹³⁰When your word is opened | it gives light;

C: It gives understanding | to the simple.

P: ¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant

C: Because I long for | your commandments.

P: ¹³²Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,

C: As you always do to those who | love your name.

P: ¹³³Order my footsteps | in your word;

C: Let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

P: ¹³⁴Rescue me from those | who oppress me,

C: And I will keep | your commandments.

P: ¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant

C: And teach | me your statutes.

P: ¹³⁶My eyes shed | streams of tears,

C: Because people do not | keep your teaching.

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

26 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 groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We 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.

³¹ What 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, how 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 who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction 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."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious 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.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior; o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

S 205a

*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

31 He put before them 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."

³³ 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."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; 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 become a disciple in 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.

Sermon

Pastor Megan Tee



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1905, alt.: tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1901
 Music: Irish traditional

SLANE
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*Apostles' Creed

C: 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 The People

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

*Peace

P: Peace be with you.

C: And also with you.

Holy Communion

Offering

"I Will Lift My Eyes"

arr. Mark Hayes

Michelle Millard, LuAnn Bahn, Mary Ellen Chinander, and Ginny Trogen

*Offertory Prayer

P: Jesus, Bread of Life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

§ 207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est,
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution

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 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion

S 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Distribution

Communion Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

ELW 705



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



Continued on the next page

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969
 Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

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P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sending

Ministry Opportunities

Blessing

P: The blessing of God, who provides us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.



1 In thee is glad - ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my
2 Je - sus is ours! . . We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the
death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; he can



true re - deem - er art. Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his



break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly has built se - cure - ly
glo - ry with heart and voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es



and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"As the Deer/Fairest Lord Jesus"

arr. Mark Hayes

Today's Worship Participants

Lector: MaryLou Gorres

Guest Pastor: Megan Tee

Piano: Kristi Mueller

Singers: Michelle Millard, LuAnn Bahn, Mary Ellen Chinander, Ginny Trogen

Chancel flowers

Nancy Knoell

Family of God Ministry Staff

Paul Burow, Senior Pastor email: pburow@fogchurch.org

Erin Koster, Associate Pastor of Children/Youth email: perin@fogchurch.org

Judy Blomgren, Director of Music email: judyb305@gmail.com

Allyson McDonald, Admin Assistant email: admin@fogchurch.org

Claudia Peterson & Madison Benton, Nursery Staff

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Family of Rich Schupbach as they grieve

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR*

Connie Young

David Loos and his family as they grieve his father

The family of Connie Anderson as they grieve

The family of Magdalen Oien as they grieve

Roger and Carol Ellis

Don and Tricia Klobberdanz

Jeanette Lavigne

*Those on the prayer list will be named for 4 weeks in the bulletin. If you wish to have someone named longer, please notify us and we will extend them on the prayer list for another four weeks. We appreciate updates on all those for whom we pray. Thank you for your prayers.

Announcements

Church Basement Ladies, A Second Helping Join Ruth Circle once again as we check in on the Church Basement. Sunday, August 16, 2:00 pm performance of A Second Helping at the Plymouth Playhouse. The cost is \$44.10/ticket, note in the comment line CBL. Or contact Stephanie Statz for electronic payment, stephstatz24@gmail.com Sign up is in the Narthex. We have 25 tickets reserved. We can get more if needed, one name per line.

Bible Study will be held on Tuesdays at 10 am during June, July, and August. We will discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday.

FOG's little library is heading into the busy summer season. Last year over 700 children's books made into the hands of young readers and adults. We are currently in need of gently used adult books (of course we will always accept gently used childrens books) to keep our library fully stocked. There is a scholastic box on the table in the narthex for any and all book donations. Thank you!

NEW STUDY AND CLASSES: Join us for a weekly series on death, grief, and end of life planning. This class meets at 11AM on Sundays after worship. We will be embarking on a Bible study called "The Grief Lectionary: A Spiritual Approach to Accessing and Processing Your Grief" by Rev. Collette Broady Grund. The Bible study starts today! Interspersed with the study will be three classes on end of life decision-making. Our first class is on August 2 with attorney Rebecca Bell. A bit about her:

Rebecca Bell from rb LEGAL pulls back the curtain on what legal documents you need (and why) and what happens when you need to use them. Led by an experienced estate planning attorney, this practical session will guide you through the critical things that many people overlook. Part education, part myth-busting, you hear about real-life stories. Whether you are new to estate planning, created your plan yesterday, or a decade ago, this presentation delivers actionable, real-world advice to ensure your legacy is fully protected and your loved ones are spared unnecessary headaches.

Ask Pr. Erin or Sue Arens if you have questions! Signup is in the narthex.

Memorial Garden Committee Meeting-- There will be a short meeting of the memorial garden committee after church on August 9th. It will be held in the youth room around 11. New members wanted. Come join us in helping this special tradition continue. If you can't make it, but want to help, call Joan Hermanson (763-229-5110).

Nursery Note: The CYF committee approved this policy: "To help us keep the Nursery safe, clean, and ready for all of our little ones, the Nursery will only be open when Nursery staff is present during the week. On Sundays, the Nursery will open 15 minutes before each service begins and will close 15 minutes after the service ends. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us care for this special space!"

Celebration of life for Magdalen (Barth) Oien age 95 of Brooklyn Park, MN who passed away Friday June 26, 2026. She was born on her family farm located in Heart River township, ND on May 20, 1931.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life to be held on Sunday, August 2nd, 11:00am - 2:00pm where family and friends will gather to share stories and memories of Magdalen. She will be missed by so many.

Westwood Hills Nature Center

8300 West Franklyn Avenue

St. Louis Park, MN 55426



FAMILY OF GOD
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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