

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

For the third Sunday in a row we read from Matthew's collection of Jesus' parables. Only, this Sunday the images are more surprising yet, full of God's wisdom, like that given to Solomon, full of the love of Christ from which we can never be separated, as St. Paul says. On **Sunday, July 26**, if you can, join the congregation in **praying together at 10 am**.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2020
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video.

Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

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 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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading:

Music may be found at:

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200726/playlist>

PSALM 119:129-136

- ¹²⁹Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
- ¹³⁰When 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.
- ¹³²Turn to me and be gra- | cious 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.
- ¹³⁴Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.
- ¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

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 God's purpose. ²⁹For those whom God foreknew God also predestined to be conformed to the image of Son of God, in order that the Son might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom God predestined God also called; and those whom God called God also justified; and those whom God justified God also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²The very Son of God was not withheld, but was given up for all of us; will God not along with the Son 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 the one 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The dominion of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a 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.”

³³Jesus told them another parable: “The dominion 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 dominion of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the dominion 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 dominion 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 Jesus said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the dominion of heaven is like a householder who brings out of the household treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

It is not only that we do not know how to pray as we ought in this hard time. And it is not only that we do not have enough wisdom for the challenges we are facing. It is also, if we speak of the actual situation of our current world, that we are genuinely “being killed all day long” by “hardship or distress or peril” and certainly by disease. But there is light and wisdom and life in the word we read today. Jesus Christ himself is the finder of the treasure and the pearl, and he gives these away to us. His despised cross, his death with us, is the “bush” which becomes a tree in which we may shelter. The risen presence of this crucified one is like the bread of the woman, enough for a multitude and life-giving, though usual religion, worried about both leaven and the cross, would call it unclean. Such is the surprising dominion of God. Nothing can separate us from this love, even if we do not understand it. And the Spirit helps us in our weakness to pray for our needy world in this time and to pray that our leaders might have something like Solomon’s wisdom.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman’s Eighth Sunday after Pentecost sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200726/playlist>

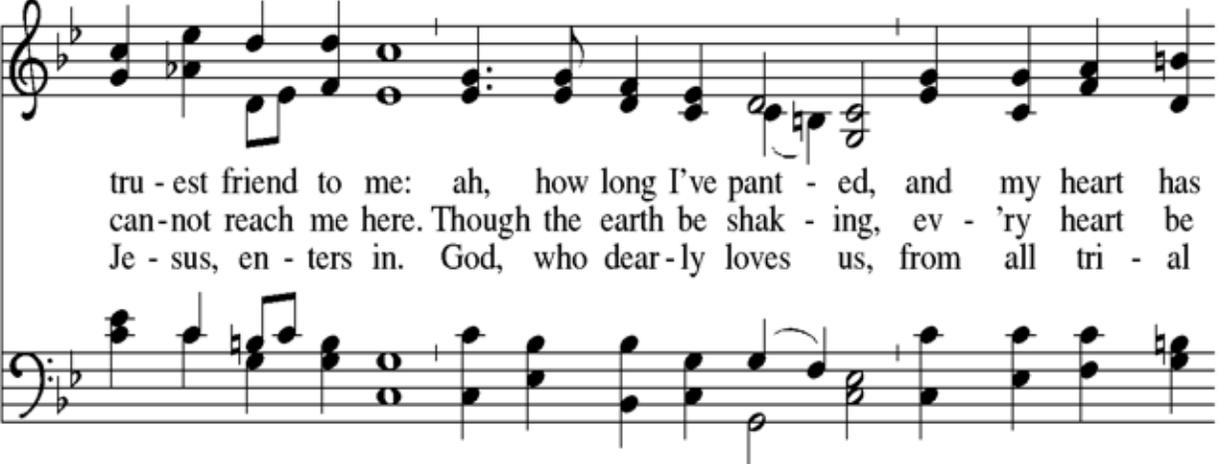
You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20200726/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #775

Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al

faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
 quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;
 saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;

no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be - side thee.
 yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: JESU, MEINE FREUDE, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662; arr. hymnal version
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Then pray these intercessions:

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 to each petition with words from today's psalm, Be gracious to us.

A brief silence.

For the church, O God of mercy, we pray. Open your word to Christians around the world. Reveal yourself to us in ways both traditional and surprising, in places old and new. Bless Bishop Ortiz, Pastor Linman, and our council and committee members, as they face their challenging tasks.

A brief silence

Turn to us, O God:

be gracious to us.

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 word. 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.

A brief silence

Turn to us, O God:

be gracious to us.

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 scientists and researchers, especially those seeking a vaccine. Lead all people to honor the scientific discoveries that you grant to humankind.

A brief silence

Turn to us, O God:

be gracious to us.

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. Visit the people of Hong Kong. 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.

A brief silence

Turn to us, O God:

be gracious to us.

For all in need, O God of compassion, we pray. Heal the sick. Feed the hungry. Comfort the countless thousands who are dealing with the coronavirus. Accompany those living with anxiety and despair. We pray for Don Hansen, Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, Jack Mulloy, and those we name here before you:

A brief silence

Turn to us, O God:

be gracious to us.

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.

A brief silence

Turn to us, O God:

be gracious to us.

You, O God, are our pearl beyond price. You are the tree giving us eternal refuge. Hear now, we pray, the petitions of our hearts.

A longer time of silence

Turn to us, O God:

be gracious to us.

In gratitude for the lives of our beloved dead, we pray that nothing, neither death nor life, will separate us from your love. At the end, gather us with all your saints in light everlasting.

A brief silence

Turn to us, O God:

be gracious to us.

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

Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at

<https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20200726/playlist>

HYMN # 597

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less than
 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I
 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood, sus -
 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh,

Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness; no merit of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -

own I claim, but wholly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain

On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light in our dark sky,
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
A Lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.



We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**God, bless to us our bread,
and give bread to all those who are hungry,
and hunger for justice to those who are fed.
God, bless to us our bread.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 119:121-128. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians) 1 Kings 4:29-34. **Wednesday** (Mary Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany; Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030) Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33. **Thursday** Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21. **Friday** Isaiah 51:17-23. **Saturday** Isaiah 44:1-5. **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21.

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure", #775, Music harmonization: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*,
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