

8th Week after Pentecost
Wednesday, July 27, and Sunday, July 31, 2022

Introduction to the day

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: God of Grace and God of Glory ELW705

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your pow'r;
Crown your ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

- 2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

- 3 Cure your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

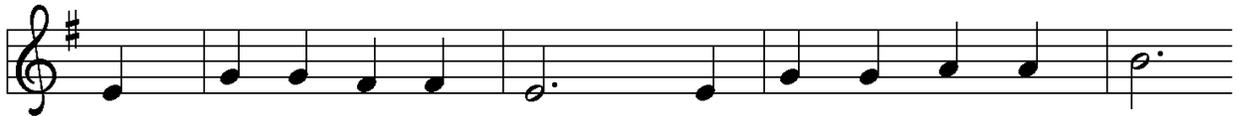
- 4 Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

GREETING

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.**

KYRIE



- 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!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with.

¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun,

²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 49:1-12

¹Hear this, all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell in the world,

²**you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.**

³My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

⁴**I will incline my ear to a proverb and set forth my riddle upon the harp.**

⁵Why should I be afraid in evil days, when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

⁶**the wickedness of those who put their trust in their own prowess, and boast of their great riches?**

⁷One can never redeem another, or give to God the ransom for another's life;

⁸**for the ransom of a life is so great that there would never be enough to pay it,**

⁹in order to live forever and ever and never see the grave.

¹⁰**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come after them.**

¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, though they had named lands after themselves.

¹²**Even though honored, they cannot live forever; they are like the beasts that perish.**

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: “The Emptiness of the Vain Life”

HYMN OF THE DAY: I'd Rather Have Jesus

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold
I'd rather be his than have riches untold
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands,
I'd rather be led by his nail-pierced hand

Refrain:

Than to be the king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin's dread sway;
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.

I'd rather have Jesus than your applause
I'd rather be faithful to his dear cause,
I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame,
I'd rather be true to his holy name. *Refrain*

He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom
He's sweeter than honey from out of the comb
He's all that my hungering spirit needs
I'd rather have Jesus and let him lead. *Refrain*

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CREED

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 INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing. Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors, and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its habitants. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, especially military personnel, police, first responders, and activists, and for the healing of the nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busyness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress (*especially*). Renew us at your table of mercy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place (*specific ministries may be named*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints (*especially*). Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN (Sunday only): Come, Let Us Eat ELW491

- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
Our Lord's body let us take together.

- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

- 3 In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,
In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
In the presence of our Lord we gather.

- 4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, ©1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, sts. 1-3, alt. text sts. 1-3 © Lutheran World Federation. Text st. 4. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: 2022 onelicense.net A-712659.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Be Thou My Vision ELW793

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
Thou my best thought both 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, and thou my high tow'r,
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, the 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.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.