

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Hidden Treasure

July 22, 2020

AS WE GATHER

Treasures are hard to find and even harder to hold on to. Jesus describes the kingdom of God as a great treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price, and a net full of fish. But this treasure is one of God's own making. He esteems us His treasured possession and delivers up His own Son that we might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom without end. On earth that treasure is hidden in the dirt, found side by side among cheap trinkets, and in nets that hold good and bad fish. But one day, it will all be clear. They will be set apart and the false treasures exposed. For now, it is enough to believe His Word and trust in His promise and hold steadfast to His Son.

WELCOME

For you were called to freedom, brothers.

Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,
but through love serve one another.

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word:
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:13-14 ESV

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

"Knowing You"

1. All I once held dear built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this

Chorus: Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You, Lord...

2. Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness
Repeat Chorus
3. Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death my Lord
So with You to live and never die

Final Chorus: Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy my righteousness
And I love You, Lord...Love You, Lord

(Rise)

INVOCATION, CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Do good, O Lord, to those who hold fast to your name

People: and to those upright in heart.

Pastor: But those who turn aside to their crooked ways,

People: the Lord will lead away with evildoers.

Silence for self-examination

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: O Lord, have mercy upon us poor, miserable sinners. We have offended you in thought, word, and deed. We have sinned against our neighbor. Spare us, O God, who confess our sins to you and who hide not our faults from your eyes. Restore the penitent and forgive us all our sins according to the promise of your mercy revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. As He suffered and died to cover our sins, cover us with His righteousness, and grant us grace that today and every day we live upright, sober, and godly lives to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Through the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, our Savior, you have been made children of God in Baptism and live because of His mercy. 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.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"

My faith has found a resting place from guilt my soul is freed;
I trust the ever-living One His wounds for me shall plead.

Enough for me that Jesus saves This ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul I come to Him He'll never cast me out.

**Refrain: I need no other argument, I need no other plea;
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.**

My heart is leaning on the Word The written Word of God;
Salvation by my Savior's name Salvation thru His blood.

Not what my feeble hands have done, can save my guilty soul.
Not what I feel, or do, or say, could ever make me whole. **Refrain**

Ending: It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.

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, that, receiving what you have promised, we may love what you have commanded; 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)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 7:6–9* (Because the Lord loves you, He has chosen you to be His treasured possession.)⁶ "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth."⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:28–39* (Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ our Savior.)²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.²⁹ 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 among many brothers.³⁰ And 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 shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SONG **"Someone Special"** (AGPS 217- verses 1 & 3)

Someone special, I know who: that Someone, my God, is You!
Who could make a world like this, and a heaven full of bliss,
Someone special I must be, Since You made it all for me!

Someone Special, who would give, His own Son that all might live,
And by Him would set us free from all sing and misery.
Someone special I must be, since you gave Your Son for me!

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:44-52* (The kingdom of God is like a hidden treasure.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. 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,⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, 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 gathered fish of every kind.

⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN **"O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer"**

Verse 1 O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

Verse 2 O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts
My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness my refuge in the night

Verse 3 O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Savior of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died
You rose the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

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SERMON **"The Treasure of the Kingdom"** **Matthew 13:44-52**

(Rise)

APOSTLES' 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, died and was 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING *Offering plates will be placed in the narthex and elevator room for gathering at the end of the service.*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O Lord, we are your people, chosen by your grace to be your own possession and granted mercy upon mercy. Hear your people who cry to you in need, and remember us according to the favor you have shown to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Brief silence

Pastor: That the Lord may open our hearts to prayer and guide us in this holy habit so that we may know those things for which we ought to pray and seek our Lord's guidance and support according to His grace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may truly treasure the grace and eternal kingdom of God, that our minds may be fixed on Christ as our priceless treasure, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Church may prosper, the good news of Jesus Christ go forth unhindered, and the Spirit bring many into the fellowship of the redeemed, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord may grant to us good and faithful pastors to preach and teach the whole counsel of His Word, that we may receive their words with joy and thanksgiving, and that the Spirit would bless and guide our Together in Mission partners, Chuck Ferry and family and Rachel Meyer, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord would bless and guide our pastor as he considers his call to serve Epiphany Lutheran Church in Kenmore, Washington, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may remember our Baptism into Christ, live boldly in our vocation as His children no matter the difficulties of this fallen world, and live lives of peace within our families, in our neighborhoods and throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord may bless our nation and those who govern us, and that we may use the gift of freedom to live holy, upright and godly lives, to the praise of His glory, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord may bless all lawful occupations and professions, and that we may pursue honesty and virtue in all things, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That God's people may recognize the true treasure of the cross and rejoice in the resurrection, pursuing with all their hearts, minds, bodies and souls the things of His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the sick may be healed, the troubled granted peace, the grieving comforted and the dying kept in peace, and especially do we pray for Jan, Jack, Louis, Dawn, Charles, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Dennis, Diane, Arlene, Dorothy, June, Jerry, Bette, Cindy, Shirley, Katie, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may rejoice in all God's gifts, especially rejoicing with Don Horn as he celebrates his 90th birthday, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord may grant us generous hearts so that we may honor and worship Him and bring to Him our sacrificial tithes and offerings, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That the Lord may watch over our coming and going, guarding and protecting us, and ultimately bring us to the blessed rest of the faithful, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: That we may receive with faith the Lord's body and blood today and by this Holy Communion be forgiven of our sins, strengthened in faith and equipped for His service, glorifying God with our words and works, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Holy God, mighty Lord, endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
Hear the prayers of your people who cry to you in their need and who
plead to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.
(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION *Wait for the ushers to direct you to come forward.*

HYMN #669 "Come We That Love the Lord"

Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet accord
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain: We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God;
but children of the heav'nly King, but children of the heav'nly King
May speak their joys abroad, May speak their joys abroad. *Refrain*

The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields, Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets, Or walk the golden streets. *Refrain*

Then let our songs abound, And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground To fairer worlds on high,
To fairer worlds on high. *Refrain*

"Living Hope"

Verse 1 How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 2 Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Verse 3 Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(Repeat Verse 3)
Jesus Yours is the victory (Chorus twice)

Ending Jesus Christ My living hope

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COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, you have richly fed us the holy gifts of Christ's body and blood in this bread and wine. Keep us by your Spirit's power that we not depart from Christ but be brought into the eternal joy of your kingdom and into the blest reunion of the saints before your glorious presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your praises,
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high. (Repeat)

Ending: You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky:
Lord, I lift your name on high
(Repeat last line twice)

Preacher

Lector

Praise Band

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Doug Bender

Jo Bender

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