



Summer

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 26, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, We That Love the Lord (We're Marching to Zion)

Music: Robert Lowry

Jonathan Shue, Scott Hafso

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

GREETING

PM: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. 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

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

I 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."

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

³¹Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it 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."

³³He 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 someone found and hid; 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 been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON***The Department of Imagination*

Pastor Jim Kruse

It was a warm quiet summer Thursday afternoon, much like the summer afternoons we have been having around here lately, when the phone rang in my office. It was Bob Peterson wondering if he could stop by the church for a chat. "Sure," I said. "I will be here all afternoon." Bob and Hazel Peterson had lived and farmed in this small community all of their adult lives. Now late in their 70s, they had sold the farm and moved into a modest 1950-style ranch house close by. Bob had some heart problems and Hazel had some trouble with arthritis, but nothing they needed to bother the pastor about. So usually begged off my invitations to make a visit to the house.

This is this same small country church in Wisconsin I talked about in my sermon a couple of weeks ago. The building was a small brick rectangle that had 10 pews down one side, then a narrow isle, and another 10 pews down the other side, with no aisles along the walls. There were 8 tall narrow windows; four on each side, 7 of which were stained glass depictions of scenes from the life of Jesus. And there was a little brass plaque on each one commemorated the donor's intentions. The eighth window was filled with translucent glass, the kind that lets light in, but you cannot see out. I always figured it was a replacement for a stained-glass version that had been broken years ago, but was too expensive to replace.

The conversation I had with Bob later that day was short and to the point. "Hazel and I want to buy the *Jesus with the Children* window," he said. I thought, "What is the *Jesus with the Children* window?"

I had no idea what he was talking about, so I just listened. It turns out the “scenes-from-Jesus’-life windows” had been installed one-by-one over the years as donations came in. Bob remembered that the last window was put in in 1956. And everyone in the church knew that the eighth and final window was supposed to be a depiction of Jesus, sitting down on a large rock, with lots of children gathered around his feet, at his side, and in his lap.

The Peterson’s had won \$250,000 in Wednesday’s Wisconsin State Lottery. “Ten percent goes to the church,” Bob said. “That’s \$25,000. We would like to finish up the windows,” he said, “if that is OK with you.”

“Sure,” I said. Who am I to stand in the way of a lottery winner’s dreams ... or principles ... or both.

This is the one and only time in all of my ministry that anyone has made a large contribution to the church out of lottery winnings, at least as far as I know.

To me, there seems to be a large contradiction between playing the lottery and the financial support of the church. At best, the lottery is based on the idea that it is better to be rich than poor. And it may even promote the idea that you can get something for nothing.

The current Washington State Lottery campaign slogan calls itself, “The Department of Imagination.” And the TV show what people buying the most outlandish things they can think of out of their imaginations, if they won. One woman would buy a private enclosure in a zoo where she could camp out with the animals on weekends. Another woman would make outlandish marriage proposals to her boyfriend every day. And in another ad, a man says he would buy so much land that it would take him a year to just walk across it.

Playing the lottery, according to this ad campaign, is like finding a genie in a bottle. “If you could three wishes, what would you wish for?” How you answer that question reveals what is most important in your life.

In our Lesson from I Kings for today, the boy-king, Solomon, gets the ancient equivalent of winning the lottery. God comes to Solomon in his sleep and ask, “What do you want? What can I get for you? Anything you ask.” The answer that Solomon gives reveals what is important in his life. It tells us what this boy is thinking about.

Solomon could have asked for anything he wanted, wealth and possessions beyond imagination. He could have asked to defeat all his enemies, to always live in peace, or to live for a hundred years. But the one thing he could not ask was to be someone else. He had to be the human being he was created to be, the King of Israel. And so he asks for wisdom, the ability to discern between what is good and bad. He asks for the grace to become, the best King of Israel he can be.

The real blessing (or curse) of winning the lottery (or just imagining that we won) is that forces us to turn into our hearts to find out what is really going on there. It forces us to figure out who we really are, to ask what we really want to be. Thinking about winning free money invites us to think about the work that God has given us to do with our one amazing gift of life.

We can choose to turn away from that task of living, and just want more money and stuff. We can choose to ignore our calling and wish for power, fame, and long life. But if we

choose say NO to what we may want to HAVE, and NO to what we may want to DO, and instead spend time thinking about what we want to BE, God will be present and we will be blessed. Do you want to be wise, like Solomon? Do you want to be happy instead of gloomy? Do you want to build others up? Do you want to be the best friend, best parent, best sibling, best child you can be?

What do you want to be—today? The best part about that question is that you do not have to win the lottery to be it.

This is the third week in a row we have been wading into this 13th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. It is a chapter of full of parables and some attempts to explain what parables mean. The actual writing itself is so confusing that the lectionary committee, the people who decide the biblical lessons for each Sunday, have to chop it up into pieces. The last two Sundays we have heard a parable from one part of the chapter and then a possible explanation of the story from a later part. Everything in between is cut out and drops to the floor of the editor's workshop. Finally, today, we scoop down and pick up all pieces, five little one-sentence parables without interpretation, but sound a lot like winning the lottery—getting something for free or unexpected.

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, a speck of grain that grows into a big bush. The Kingdom of God is like yeast, a dusting of powder that makes the dough rise to four times its original size. The Kingdom of God is like buried treasure (or like a fine pearl for that matter) that causes a man to sell everything he has so that he can get a hold of it. And finally, the Kingdom of God is like picking through a large catch of fish, looking for the good ones.

Jesus could have HAD anything he wanted. He could have DONE anything he wanted. But he could not BE anything he wanted to be. He had to be the human being he was created to be.

Sure, Jesus lifts up the poor, heals the sick, and gives hope to the lost and lonely. Sure, he takes on the misguided leaders of his day who make God out to be a harsh, demanding, far-off judge. And he arrested and put to death for doing it. Sure, he suffers terribly on the cross. In the end, God blesses his life, his suffering, and his death, by raising him from the grave. But before all of that Jesus made the choice to live into the purpose for which he was created.

A year and a half after my phone call from Bob, I was the one calling making the call. "The stained-glass window has been ordered and installed," I said. "It was time to have for the dedication service. What do you want on the plaque?" I asked. "I haven't given it much thought," Bob said. Hazel and he couldn't think of any memorial, and he certainly did not want their name on it. But Bob had sung in the church choir all his life and he remembered a phrase from his Bach and Handel sheet music. "Just put *Soli Deo Gloria*," Bob said. I think it means "To God alone be Glory." And that is what we put.

Not too much later, we did Bob's memorial service in that space with the windows all finished up. With his dream completed, his bad heart finally got him.

In the whole grand manifestation of the mighty glory of God over the millennia, it is not much. 10% off the top of a state lottery ticket, a concrete depiction of a biblical scene that is so familiar to the handful of people who will ever see it that they really do not really need to

see it again. It is a single window in the back corner of a small old church building in unincorporated Stone Bank, Wisconsin, a state that is located in the middle of a large country where the vast majority of the people live along the coasts.

No, it is not that much. Except that, to Bob and Hazel, to the saints of St. John's Lutheran, and to the angels who sing eternal praise to God, it is a jewel in the crown of the Kingdom of God.

"Have you understood all this?" Jesus asks his closest friends. And they answered, "Yes."

Yeah! Right!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Thou My Vision

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Elanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; Music: Irish traditional

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.
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.
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.
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.

OFFERING

Please take a moment to give thanks to God for all that you have received in life, and remember your generous financial support of the ongoing ministry obligations of OSLC.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: Merciful God,,

As grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
were gathered together to become one bread,
so let your church be gathered together
from the end of the earth into your kingdom,
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

C: Amen

OFFERING SONG *Praise to You, O God of Mercy* — Text & music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

“Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead, it is water used according to God’s command and connected with God’s word. With the word of God, it is a grace-filled water of life and a ‘bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.’ It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it.” -*Luther’s Small Catechism*

AM: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.
By water and your word you claim us as daughters and sons,
Making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of life and breath, you are our source of hope.

+ We give thanks for your precious gifts of love and life; embrace and nurture us in your love; sustain us when we are feeling broken or frightened; open our hearts and minds to hear your word and call; strengthen us to take action to seek justice for our neighbors; grant us courage and creativity to joyfully share your Good News.

We give thanks for your creation.

+ Enable us to be educated, equipped, and inspired to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for our partners at Earth Ministry and Lutherans Restoring Creation.

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

+ We lift up people for whom insecurity, violence, and fear are the norm. Help us to bring healing, wholeness, and safety to all.

+ God of Mercy, guide us to recognize our prejudices and empower us take action to eliminate the racism that permeates our communities and our church. O God, open our eyes, our ears, and our minds. Help us to behold one another as you behold us. Help us to be more firmly rooted in the practices of the gospel—so that the way we live will make real the dream of your beloved community within and among us.

+ We pray for all in the wake of natural disasters, including recent cyclones and tropical storms. Grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild.

+ We lift up all in our community who provide emergency services: medical workers, firefighters, and police. Grant them wisdom and safety.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

+ We pray for those who are facing ongoing challenges and health concerns: Henrik & Patty, Vern, communities across the country, Mike, Pattie, Paul, Lyle, Bodil, Perrin, Marilyn, Dave, Emily, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

+ We continue to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis: bring peace and comfort to the families of those who have died; grant healing for those diagnosed; protect and sustain medical workers, care providers, first responders and chaplains; guide those working to improve testing and those working toward a vaccine; sustain those who are facing financial uncertainty; and help us to be wise as we emerge from our stay at home order.

+ Loving God, you call us to care for our neighbors. Inspire our leaders and guide us to be better advocates for the sake of each member in our community - especially those who have little power and no voice.

+ We pray for our neighbors who are fearful or in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support, and advocate for people who are experiencing domestic violence.

+ We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Empower us to reach out to those who need care and support. For those who are in despair, remember you are loved. You are never beyond God's mercy, grace and love.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness. We lift up the family and friends of Sheila, Dick, Germaine, Bob, Fran, Joe and Don.

We pray for your church:

+ We give thanks for the leaders and members of ministries of our congregation. Grant them energy and creativity for their work; give them grace to rest and find peace.

+ We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those ministries that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, Bethany of the Northwest, and Hearthstone Community.

+ We pray for congregations in the call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where it is that you are leading them. We lift up transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff and lay leaders, and synod staff.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

+ Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Trusting in your mercy and grace, we lift our prayers to you.

Amen

THE 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

BLESSING

PM: God of all grace,
who has called you to life in Christ,
restore, support, protect, strengthen, and bless you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING SONG

The Summons — Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; Music: Scottish traditional
Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

POSTLUDE

I'll Fly Away — Albert E. Brumely Jonathan Shue, Scott Hafso

Commemorations for the Week

Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians, Tuesday, July 28

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany, Wednesday, July 29

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030, Wednesday, July 29

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Connie Fletcher
Song Leaders:	Lori Downey, Connie Fletcher, Sue Johnson David Hersey, Marc Montague
Mandolin:	Jonathan Shue
Videographer:	Elizabeth Waltzer
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Flowers provided by:	Barbara Fetty-Solders
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Isaiah 55:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Acknowledgements: Liturgy reprinted from SundaysandSeasons.com, copyright © 2019, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under **Media 1517 License #32992**. Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Reprinted by permission under **OneLicense.net License #A-706795: Glory to God**.

Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Flowers for this service provided by: Barabara Fetty-Solders.

Additional worship resources:

Readings: Psalm 119: 129-136; Romans 8: 26-39

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

Text: Johann Franck 1618-1677; Music: Johann Crüger 1598-1662

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslcssaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Henrik & Patty Christopherson comfort and support after experiencing a house fire. (Dianne Tanner)

Vern Lindquist comfort and recovery from a stroke experienced the week of June 29th.

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Mike Golick continued recovery and safe travel to an assisted living facility in Anchorage, Alaska. (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde)

Mike special ops military unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Pattie Rutten, peace and strength as she recovers from a broken femur and the loss of her husband. (aunt of Mark Howe)

Paul Salazar continued recovery from a heart attack. (step-father to Cheryl Hauser)

Lyle Bentley successful radiation treatment. (Don Robertson)

Bodil Isop healing and comfort from shingles.

Perrin Green 4 years old, unexplained brain activity leading to seizures. (Mary Ann Hult)

Marilyn Grey comfort as she enters hospice care. (mother to Mark Cron)

Linda Chambers comfort and peace following the death of her husband. (sister of Barbara Hinds)

Dave Carlson continued strength, healing and comfort following kidney transplant surgery.

Emily Gacek acquired COVID19 from a caregiver, healing and strength. (Connie Fletcher)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Evy Sneva (Karen Hansen), **Marian James**; **Douglas Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur**; **Katie Moeller**; **Margot Inman**; **Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson**; **Taufik Hidayut** (Ken

Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas**; **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland**; **Randi Strom**; **Jeanne Kuipers**; **Talton Johnson**; **John Pass**; **Florence Kinnune**; **Carol Harbolt**; **Sandy Aldworth**; **Jen Winslow**; **Larry Pruitt**.

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Amy Aldworth** (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson**; **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Richard "Dick" Birdsall** (Dianne Tanner); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Bob Gray** (Doug & Dianne Tanner); **Fran Hildebrand** (Karen Hansen); **Joe Rutten** (uncle of Mark Howe); **Don Brannon** [former member of OSLC] (Rowan Hinds); **Don McWhirter** (Rowan Hinds); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Karen Miley** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.