

Risen Christ Lutheran Church

7th Sunday after Pentecost Worship - July 19, 2020

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION (Our next communion is on Sunday, July 26, as we resume our regular communion schedule of the 2nd and 4th Sundays): We believe: that Christ's body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the "individual" cups of wine. (Note: White wine and diluted red wine are in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING: Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! OFFERING PLATES will be available as after the Benediction, as you depart.

About the Offering For those who are unable to attend our services in person, we miss you and look forward to the time we can worship with you, again! Remember, too, the church does still have bills to pay and still needs the support of our members. You can send your offering to the church thru the mail or you can set up a automate deposit using the website link: <https://www.risenchrist.info/giving/>

May God who hears our prayers, knows are needs, be with you all, and give you peace and comfort.

Regarding Bulletins: PDF and Word Doc versions of Bulletins are available for you to print out at home prior to you coming to church (or for use as you participate in our Online Services). **NOTE:** For those of you who are comfortable with picking up bulletins here, we have some available already printed out here.

Extra Large Print Bulletins - Available from an usher.

REMINDER: The whole service is also projected onto the chancel walls.

Listening Assistance Devices: Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room: A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area.

Children's Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

Welcome and Announcements

As We Gather – How do we get through our time on earth, when the Church is beset with so many trials and tribulations? At times, the people who seem most devout cause havoc, and there is no peace. Jesus gives the answer in a parable: The truth will come out in the harvest, the Last Day. That is when angels, not mere humans, will separate the enemy's weed-like followers from the faithful who have been declared righteous for Christ's sake. Knowing the end of the story, we can be at peace even while living among weeds. Moreover, when we do have difficulties, Paul reminds us, the Spirit "intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." In short, we leave everything in God's gracious hands. He is the only God, as He declared through Isaiah. With Him in control, we have peace now and forever!

Call to Worship – What A Beautiful Name

1. You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

***CHORUS 1: What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus***

2. You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus You brought heaven down
My sin was great Your love was greater
What could separate us now

***CHORUS 2: What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus***

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Ben Fielding | Brooke Ligertwood
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Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences *Romans 11:33, 36*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

C How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

P For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

C To Him be glory forever. Amen.

BRIDGE: Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

BRIDGE: You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

CHORUS 3: What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

ENDING: What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

***Shout to the Lord, all the Earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in
You***

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Introit Psalm 86:11–15; *antiphon: v. 6*

- P** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.
- P** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
G **unite my heart to fear Your name.**
- P** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
G **and I will glorify Your name forever.**
- P** For great is Your steadfast love toward me;
G **You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**
- P** O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life,
G **and they do not set You before them.**
- P** But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
G **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**
- A** **All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
G **And also with you.**
- P** O God, grant us such strength of faith in our hearts and minds
G **that we may live in peace no matter the trials or tribulations besetting us until You receive
us in Your harvest at the end of this present age;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.
G **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 44:6–8 (The Lord, our Redeemer, is the only God.)*

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

"I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 119:57–64 (antiphon: v. 89)

L ⁵⁷The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words.

C ⁵⁸I entreat your favor with all my heart;

be gracious to me according to your promise.

L ⁵⁹When I think on my ways,

I turn my feet to your testimonies;

C ⁶⁰I hasten and do not delay

to keep your commandments.

L ⁶¹Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,

I do not forget your law.

C ⁶²At midnight I rise to praise you,

because of your just and righteous decrees.

L ⁶³I am a companion of all who fear you,

of those who keep your precepts.

C ⁶⁴The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!

Epistle *Romans 8:18–27*

(The Spirit intercedes even when words fail us.)

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Apostles' Creed

- C** 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.

Verse *Matthew 13:35b*

- P** Alleluia! I will open My mouth in parables;
C I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**
- P** [Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him,
- C** 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'
- P** He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him,
- C** 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'
- P** But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" . . .
- P** Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying,
- C** "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."
- P** He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.
- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Because we cannot fully understand God, we are prone to question His judgments and wonder why He allows evil people to oppose Christ's Church from without and from within. But none of us is without error. Let us reflect on our own sinful human condition as we come into the presence of the Almighty God.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Through Isaiah the Lord declared, "I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god."
Isaiah 44:6b
- C** **We confess that we have allowed ourselves, our friends, and the things around us to determine our actions; they have become as gods to us. We have not loved You, heavenly Father, with all our heart, mind, and strength. Forgive us.**
- P** Paul wrote that "we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us." *Romans 8:26*
- C** **We confess that in our pride we have thought we knew what was good for us, and when we did not receive it, doubted that You, O Holy Spirit, had even heard our prayer. Forgive us.**
- P** In His parable about the wheat and weeds, Jesus explained that in the day of judgment "all causes of sin and all law-breakers" will be sent to a place of "weeping and gnashing of teeth."
Matthew 13:41-42
- C** **We confess that we have judged the people around us, hurting many in the process and failing to see our own faults and failures. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, nor have we trusted Your plans, Lord Jesus. Forgive us.**
- P** God's calming word through Isaiah was, "Fear not, nor be afraid." Even while we stumble, the promise is that "the Spirit helps us in our weakness." In the End we who have been made righteous by Christ's sacrifice for us shall be gathered as wheat into God's eternal harvest. 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. *Isaiah 44:8a; Romans 8:26a*
- C** **Amen.**
- P** "He who has ears, let him hear." *Matthew 13:43b*
- C** **We hear and rejoice. To God be the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the Church and for all people in their various needs. For Christians here and wherever the redeemed of the Lord gather around Word and Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord.

MEN - Strengthen our faith, O Holy Spirit, through these Means of Grace, so that we remain strong and at peace even when dealing with opposition from the world around us and with conflict within the visible Church.

P For those who lead the Church, lay and clergy alike, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL - Lord Christ, give wisdom and courage to all who lead, so that the Church may continue to grow both in faith and in numbers. May they keep the final harvest ever before them.

P For our community and our nation, let us pray to the Lord.

WOMEN - Raise up leaders in our midst to order our towns and villages, state and nation, heavenly Father. Grant them eyes of compassion, justice, decency, and order, so that no one is denied freedom and dignity.

P For the nations of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL - Lord over all, use the powers that be to maintain freedom within the borders of the nations and peace between neighboring states, so that calm may prevail and the Gospel spread throughout this present age.

P For those who give care in emergencies and during chronic difficulties, let us pray to the Lord.

MEN - Gracious Lord, protect, strengthen, and guide doctors and nurses, police and fire departments, our armed forces around the world, relief workers, grief counselors, and untold neighbors caring for those in need around them. Help us to appreciate all their efforts.

P For those near and dear to us, and for the many people we do not know, those whose lives are difficult because of illness, persecution, homelessness, and the results of manmade or natural disasters, let us pray to the Lord.

WOMEN - Merciful Father, visit them and as fits Your gracious plans for them, bring them healing, comfort, and relief. Restore them to peace and joy; may they join us here with thanks and praise.

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, heavenly Father, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

G **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.**

Who You Say I Am

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

***Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am***

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

***CHORUS: Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am***

***BRIDGE: I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am
(Oh) (Yes) I am who You say I am CHORUS***

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Benediction

P The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you, now and forever.

G Amen.

Dismissal – USHERS WILL DISMISS EACH ROW BEGINNING FROM THE REAR OF SANCTUARY

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