



9th Sunday after Pentecost July 30, 2023

A combined worship service of New Hope and First English Lutheran Churches

GATHERING

Gathering Music:

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude:

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **C: Amen.**

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

C: Have mercy, O God, against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us new hearts and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

L: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

C: Blessed be God forever.

Gathering Song: Gather Us In

ELW #532

1. Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

3. Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy
and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away –
Here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire... of love in our flesh and our bone.

L: 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.**

Hymn of Praise: O Spirit All-Embracing

ACS #944

1. O Spirit all-embracing and counselor all-wise,
unbounded splendor gracing a shoreless sea of skies:
Unfailing is your treasure, unfading your reward;
surpassing worldly pleasure, the riches you afford.
Come, stream of endless flowing, and rescue us from death;
Come, wind of springtime blowing, and warm us by your breath.
2. O Beauty ever blazing in flower, field, and face,
You show yourself amazing in unexpected place.
We see you and remember what once our dreams had been;
You fan the glowing ember and kindle hope within.
Come, fire of glory gracious, bless all who trust in you;
Undying flame tenacious, burn in your church anew.
3. Come, passion's power holy, your insight here impart,
And give your servants lowly and understanding heart
To know your care more clearly when faith and love are tried,
To seek you more sincerely when false ideals have died:
For vision we implore you, for wisdom's pure delight;
In prayer we come before you to wait upon your light.

L: Let us all pray... **C: 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.**

WORD

1st Reading: Romans 8:26-39

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

Psalm 119:129-136

L: Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C: When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

L: I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

C: Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

L: Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C: Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

L: Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

C: My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

Gospel Acclamation

ACS p. 33

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time

Sermon

Pastor Tammy Bull

Hymn of the Day: The Reign of God

ACS #952

1. The reign of God, like farmer's field, bears weeds along with wheat;
The good and bad are intertwined till harvest is complete.
2. The reign of God is like a pearl on barren land concealed.
If once you find that precious pearl, go out and buy that field.
3. Though hidden now, the reign of God may, yet unnoticed, grow;
From deep within it rises up, like yeast in swelling dough.

4. Like mustard tree, the reign of God from tiny seed will spread,
Till birds of ev'ry feather come to nest, and there be fed.
5. The reign of God is come in Christ; the reign of God is near.
Ablaze among us, kindling hearts, the reign of God is here!

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed. ACS p. 17

C: 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 the People (petitions end... "Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**")

Sharing the Peace of Christ

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Offering: (At this time we bring our gifts and offerings to God as an act of thankfulness and worship. Following the command of Jesus, we care for people in our congregation, our community, and the world in his name. One of the ways we do this is by celebrating together – a public witness to the unity we have in Christ in the midst of our diversity! We appreciate the faithfulness of our members in making regular contributions of your time, energy, prayers, and money to this work! If you are worshiping with us as a guest on-line or in-person, we invite you to join us in caring for God's people and God's world! As the music plays, please take a moment to reflect on God's goodness, and consider what your gift of thanksgiving and worship might be.)

Offertory Music:

Offering Response: As Saints of Old (v. 3 only)

ELW #695

3. In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today
To serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
Teach us to give ourselves away until life's work is done.

Offertory Prayer: **C: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, [...] Let us pray with confidence the prayer Jesus taught: **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.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Be Known to Us

ACS p. 40

Hymn during Communion: As We Gather at Your Table

ELW # 522

1. As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.
2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.
3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us, unite us, and keep us in his grace. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us all pray... **C: O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace. **C: Amen.**

Sending Song: God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

ELW #771

1. God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space.
We, your children in your likeness, share inventive pow'rs with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.
2. We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined pow'r,
Facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.
3. As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew:
Children of creative purpose, serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

L: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Accompanists: Carole Hatley and James Rickley

ANNOUNCEMENTS for week of July 30, 2023

- Pastor Tammy will be out of the office July 31 – August 13. If you have a pastoral care need, please contact Gaynell Tempel (NHLC) or Marcia Swenson (FELC).

Attributions:

Liturgical texts and music used by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License # SB159291. All rights reserved.

Gather Us In (ELW #532) Text & music: Marty Haugen; text & music © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission under OneLicense #A-727837. All rights reserved.

O Spirit All-Embracing. (ACS #944) Text: Delores Dufner, OSB; music: Gustav Holst. Text ©1992, 1995 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN. GIA Publications, Inc.; used under OneLicense #A-727837. All rights reserved. Music public domain.

The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field (ACS #952) Text: Delores Dufner, OSB; ©1995, 2003 GIA Publications. Music: Samuel McFarland; arr. *With One Voice*. Arr. ©1995 Augsburg Fortress. Text & music used by permission under OneLicense #A-727837. All rights reserved.

As Saints of Old (ELW #695) Text: Frank von Christierson; music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams. Text & arr. © 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company; used by permission under OneLicense #A-727837©1989. All rights reserved.

As We Gather at Your Table (ELW #522) Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. ©1989 Hope Publishing Company. Text used by permission under OneLicense #A-727837. All rights reserved. Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen. Music public domain.

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (ELW #771) Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; public domain. Text: Catherine Cameron; ©1967 Hope Publishing Company; used by permission under OneLicense #A-727837. All rights reserved.

Gathering, prelude, offertory, and postlude music may be found in the public domain. Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or livestream the music in this service obtained from OneLicense #A727837. All rights reserved.