

# Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025

## WELCOME

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Our liturgy today and through this month comes from the *Liturgy of the Beloved* by Ben & Caitlyn Johnston-Urey from Whitehorse, which is in our Synod of Alberta and the Territories. At this summer's ELCIC National Convention, Ben was recognized with the ELCIC Leadership Award.

Church Campout – schedule on the bulletin board and sign-up sheet is in our Place of Welcome.

## INTRODUCTION

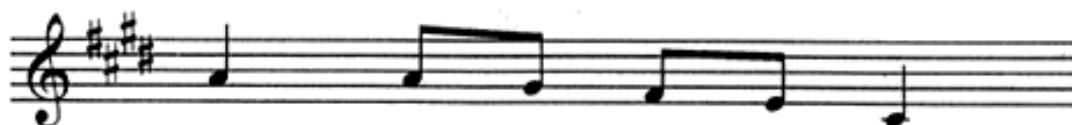
Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate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

Let us take a moment to center our hearts and minds now.

GATHERING SONG "Here I am to Worship" (binder)



1. Light of the world, You stepped  
2. King of all days Oh so



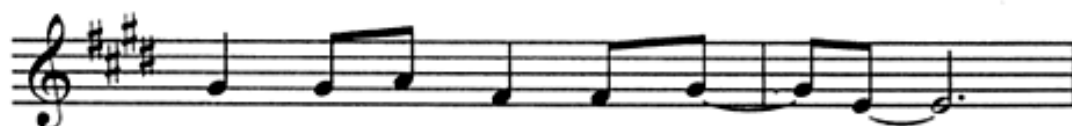
down in - to dark - - ness  
high - ly ex - al - - ted,



o - pened my eyes, let me see  
Glor - ious in hea - ven a - bove.



beau - ty that made this heart a - dore You,  
Hum - bly You came to the earth You cre - a - ted,



hope of a life spent with You.  
all for love's sake be - came poor.

**Chorus:**



So here I am to wor - ship, Here I am to



bow down, Here I am to say that You're my God.



You're al - to - ge - ther love - ly, al - to - geth - er



wor - thy, al - to - ge - ther



won - der - ful to me.

**Bridge:**



And I'll ne - ver know how much



it cost to see my sin u - pon



that cross. And I'll ne -



ver know how much it cost to see



my sin u - pon that cross.

## CALL TO WORSHIP (adapt. Psalm 90)

God of our beginning,  
From generation to generation, you have been our dwelling place –  
**our home where grace abounds.**

Before the mountains were born, before the earth was formed –  
**You are. Timeless and Eternal.**

We first dwelled with you as divine thought, then as children,  
born of love and breathed into fertile earth.  
**We, your children, bear your image.**

Now, here, we gather in praise and remembrance of the First Love.  
**Humbled in the expanse of your sovereignty, we seek to begin anew.**

*Pause for reflection*

In the silence of our understanding, when words fail and hearts yearn to be made new,  
**we hear you calling from the kingdom of heaven within, “My children. Return.”**

## “Return & Renewal (Confession & Forgiveness)” – Liturgy of the Beloved (LotB)

C sus2 C C maj7 Eb/Bb Eb sus4 Ab maj7

Re - turn to the Lord your God who is gra - cious and

G m F sus2 Ab maj7 Bb/F C sus4

mer - ci - ful, slow to ang - er and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### **Cantor**

*God of all mercy and consolation,  
your love is steadfast. Your love is patient.  
God of our near and far,  
you meet us where we are -  
each peak and valley of our lives.*

*Restore us by your Spirit's power.  
Open our eyes to you, our source of life.  
Come sanctify our hearts and minds.  
May we walk your pathways to the glory of your name!*

*All*

*As in the Garden of our Unknowing,  
We found division in worldly wisdom.  
Long have we wandered from  
the wisdom of your love -  
Help us to find our way back home.*

*Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive,  
heeding the call to love as you have loved.  
Let Mercy reign in ev'ry heart.  
May the Way of Christ be the pattern of our lives.*

*Down through the ages, your love is changeless-  
across the nations, each generation.  
You are the cleansing rain.  
you wash away our pain,  
and by your grace we have been saved.*

*Return to the Lord your God  
who is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding  
in steadfast love...*

## Return & Renewal

*Confession & Forgiveness*

Ben & Caitlin Johnston-Urey

God of all mer - cy and con - sol - a - tion, your love is stead - fast.  
As in the Gar - den of our un - know - ing, we've found div - is - ion

Your love is pat - ient. God of our near and far, you meet us where we are -  
in world - ly wis - dom. Long have we wand - ered from the wis - dom of your love

Each peak and val - ley of our lives. Re - store us by  
Help us to find our way back home. For - give us, Lord,

your Spir - it's power. Op - en our eyes to you, our source of  
as we for - give, heed - ing the call to love as you have

life. Come sanc - ti - fy our hearts and minds.\_\_\_\_  
loved. Let Mer - cy reign in ev' - ry heart.\_\_\_\_

May we walk your path - ways to the glor - y of your name!\_\_\_\_  
May the Way of Christ be the pat - tern of our lives.\_\_\_\_

Down through the age - s your love is change - less, a - cross the na tions,

each gen - er - a - tion. You are the cleans - ing rain. You wash a - way our pain,

and by your grace we have been saved.\_\_\_\_\_

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of our Unending,  
your love is as boundless as the heavens.  
Your grace is a river that flows without ceasing.  
In Jesus, you weave yourself into the fabric of our humanity-  
**Divine Mercy made manifest in our own time.**

Therefore, Beloved, hear the good news:  
In love you were made, and to love you shall return.  
In the name of + is Jesus Christ every distance is bridged,  
Every division is healed, and every heart is made whole.  
May Christ be your heart's everlasting desire.  
May the Words of Life be ever upon your lips! **Amen.**

## GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Our Lord is with you.  
**And also with you.**

It is our delight to pray. Eternal and faithful God, you call us to place our hope not in perishable riches, but in the abundance of life that comes from You: free us from greed and the false security that comes from accumulating possessions, so that, being rich toward You, we may seek Your kingdom with sincerity of heart and place our trust in Your wisdom that endures forever. Make us receptive to Your Word, which helps us encounter You in the humility of our lives, leaving behind the avarice of this society.

Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Colossians 3:1-11

*Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of our focus on self and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.*

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Colossae.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "The Living Word" LotB –**

***Cantor/Echo in segments as shown (music provided for congregation)***

*In the beginning was the Word,*

*The Living Word of God,*

*The Light of Life Unending.*

***In the beginning was the Word,***

***The Living Word of God,***

***The Light of Life Unending.***

*You shine in us as ancient starlight,*

*in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.*

***You shine in us as ancient starlight,***

***in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.***

***Cantor only***

*Sing we halle, hallelu!*

*You are the Word of Life Eternal.*

*Holy Wisdom, found within!*

*You speak to us and we remember:*

***All***

***"I am the Book no one can close,***

***The Story of our time, before all time, together.***

***I am the Voice that never falters,***

***I, the Echo of Beyond.***

***I am the Way, the Truth, the Life."***

***The Living Word.***



In the Beg - in - ning was the Word, the Liv - ing Word of God, the

Light of Life Un - end - ing. You shine in us as an - cient

star - light, in our Book of Mem - o - ries and Fu - ture Dreams.

Sing we hal - le, hal - le - lu!  
*Lord, to whom shall we go?*

You are the Word of Life E - ter - nal. Ho - ly Wis - dom,

found with - in! You speak to us and we re-mem - ber:

I am the Book no one can close, the Sto - ry of our time, be -

fore all time, to - geth - er. I am the Voice that ne - ver

fal - ters, I, the Ech - o of Be - yond. I am the Way, the

Truth, the Life, the Liv - ing Word.

The gospel reading and sermon for today have been prepared and shared by Rev. Adam Snook, Eastern Synod Assistant to the Bishop for Communication, Mission, Lay Ministry, 2SLGBTQIA+, Future Vision/Congregational Support.

**GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And 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." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then 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. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But 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?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The gospel of our risen Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Saviour, Precious Saviour" LBW 514 - piano only



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;  
 2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,  
 3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;  
 4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:  
 thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:  
 the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.  
 in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;  
 we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;  
 We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;  
 then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.  
 we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.  
 we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.  
 and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

## FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

## MARLA

*Pastor Tom and Karen Peterson*, as you leave our *congregation*, we wish to bid you farewell and to thank you for all the many ways you have led and nurtured, uplifted and served with and among us in this place.

*A reading from Exodus*: The Lord said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared." (*Exodus 23:20*)

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his church. In this community have grown together in living out God's mission for us and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has truly blessed us through you.

United in the body of Christ, we encourage you to continue to receive and share God's gifts in Sidney, BC.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for the friendship and witness of your servants Tom and Karen, who *have* enriched this congregation and shared their gifts with us all.

Now bless and preserve them at this time of a new beginning.

Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed,

friends to cheer their way,

and peace in their new home.

By your Holy Spirit be present in all their comings and goings,

that they may journey with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

May peace be within, and ever before you.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of Rest and Renewal, may the offerings of our lives reflect your timeless rhythm of doing and being, action and rest. Help us to freely offer what you have given, the fruits of your Spirit flowing from our wellspring within. May our hearts and thoughts be lifted up in radiant alignment with you, O God: in love we were made, in love we live, and to love we shall return. In you, we are made complete. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Loving Lord, we pray for your Church that she may be a living witness of generosity, humility and that she may place her trust in You. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. We pray especially that you will uphold Bishop Susan Johnson as she concludes her ministry and Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer and Cathy in this time of transition. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they may use their exercise their power justly. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. We pray especially for the people of Gaza and Ukraine, and other parts of the world where suffering is caused by hatred and greed. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear especially Myrtle, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Kyra, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda, Shirley, Reinhold & Isobel, Nikola, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim, Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Alan and those we name silently now . . . [silence]. Give strength to those who provide care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity, ever mindful that our wealth lies in your love and salvation. We give thanks for those who care for our property. Hold Pastor Joel, Vanesa and Hans in your care and together may we view this time of waiting and anticipation as a gift from You. We ask your blessing on Albert and Barb Weik and Cliff and Pat Weir. In our mission to share your Gospel with the world, give us sufficient strength to carry out this task as we are called. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Finally, we pray for ourselves, that, recognizing the brevity of life, we may live each day seeking to be rich in what matters to you. We give thanks for those who have gone before and now rest in your loving care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in grace and mercy, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.** Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

**SUNG BENEDICTION: Hope Everlasting (Romans 15:13)**

Cantor/echo - in segments as shown

*Oh, where do we go from here?  
Whom do we follow, which path do we take?  
**Oh, where do we go from here?**  
**Whom do we follow, which path do we take?***

*We'll follow wherever You lead.  
We'll follow Your heart's desire,  
And seek to be Your peace for a world in need.  
**We'll follow wherever You lead.**  
**We'll follow Your heart's desire,**  
**And seek to be Your peace for a world in need.***

*Now, may the God of all hope fill you with joy and peace, by faith,  
And may your hope everlasting, by the power of the Spirit, abound!  
**Now, may the God of all hope fill you with joy and peace, by faith,**  
**And may your hope everlasting, by the power of the Spirit, abound!***  
(repeat these two lines twice more)

Oh, where do we go from here?

Whom do we fol - low, which path do we take?

We'll fol - low where - ev - er you lead. We'll

fol - low your heart's de - sire, and seek to be your

peace for a world in need.

*opt. round*

Now, may the God of all hope fill you with joy and

peace by faith, and may your hope ev - er - last - ing,

by the pow'r of the Spi-rit, a - bound!

## SENDING

God is. Love does.

**In the footsteps of grace, we follow!**

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