

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JULY 30, 2023**

**IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!**

Sunday - 10:00 a.m.



*THE ENTRANCE RITE*

*PRELUDE*

*Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure*

Setting: James L. Brauer

*WELCOME*

*ENTRANCE HYMN*

*O Jesus, King Most Wonderful*

LSB 554

- 1 O Jesus, King most wonderful!  
O Conqueror renowned!  
O Source of peace ineffable,  
In whom all joys are found:**
- 2 When once You visit darkened hearts,  
Then truth begins to shine,  
Then earthly vanity departs,  
Then kindles love divine.**
- 3 O Jesus, light of all below,  
The fount of life and fire,  
Surpassing all the joys we know,  
All that we can desire:**
- 4 May ev'ry heart confess Your name,  
Forever You adore,  
And, seeking You, itself inflame  
To seek You more and more!**
- 5 Oh, may our tongues forever bless,  
May we love You alone  
And ever in our lives express  
The image of Your own!**

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*Kneel. Silence is observed for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy upon us. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

*KYRIE (Stand)*

LSB 944

For the peace from above and for our salvation; and for the peace of the whole world and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**Kyrie Eleison; Christe Eleison; Kyrie Eleison.**

For the well-being of the Church of God; and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**Kyrie Eleison; Christe Eleison; Kyrie Eleison.**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Kyrie Eleison; Christe Eleison; Kyrie Eleison.**

- 1 **Splendor and honor, majesty and power  
Are Yours, O Lord God, fount of ev'ry blessing,  
For by Your bidding was the whole creation  
Called into being.**
- 2 **Praised be the true Lamb, slain for our redemption,  
By whose self-off'ring we are made God's people:  
A priestly kingdom, from all tongues and nations,  
Called to God's service.**
- 3 **To the Almighty, throned in heav'nly splendor,  
And to the Savior, Christ our Lamb and Shepherd,  
Be adoration, praise, and glory given,  
Now and forever.**

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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. Amen.**

*THE LITURGY OF THE WORD*

*FIRST LESSON (Be seated)*

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

"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. 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, 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. 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*PSALM 125 (Sung responsively)*

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his people,  
from this time forth and forevermore.

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the righteous,  
lest the righteous stretch out  
their hands to do wrong.

Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,  
and to those who are upright in their hearts!  
But those who turn aside to their crooked ways  
the LORD will lead away with evildoers!  
Peace be upon Israel!

*SECOND LESSON*

Romans 8:28-39

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 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. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 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? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 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. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### *CHILDREN’S SERMON*

*ALLELUIA VERSE (Stand)*

LSB 952

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!**

*GOSPEL*

Matthew 13:44-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “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.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” 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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

*SERMON (Be seated)*

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus. Amen. Dear friends in Christ:

For the third Sunday in a row our Gospel reading has come from the thirteenth chapter of Matthew's Gospel. And as we have observed, this chapter is filled with parables of Jesus meant to teach us about the nature and purpose of his kingdom.

Two Sundays ago we read the chapter's first parable—the Parable of the Sower. In it we observed a man sowing seed generously with much of the seed falling on places where it would not grow well. We noted how the parable addresses the sad reality of many people hearing God's Word but not believing or living it. We also noted the parable's encouragement for us to continue generously spreading God's Word in hopes that people will eventually take it to heart.

Last Sunday we read the parable of the weeds and the wheat. The weeds in that parable represent the unrighteous people of the world while the wheat represents the righteous ones – those who are saved. The parable teaches that although unrighteous people will eventually be judged and pay the price for their sin, God doesn't condemn them right away. God waits on his judgment because he is patient – hoping that the unrighteous will become righteous through the hearing of his word and the confession of their sins.

Today's verses give four very short parables – each of which again tells us something about Christ's kingdom. One of them, the parable of the net, repeats the point of God's impending judgment which was made by the parable of the weeds. The last of the four – a parable about old and new treasures – encourages Jesus' disciples to employ both the things they have known about God from the past as well as the new things Jesus teaches.

The two other parables, both of which could simply be called “treasure parables,” speak of the great value of the kingdom itself. And it's these two parables that I'd like us to concentrate upon today. Both parables make the same basic point. But each also has separate points of emphasis too.

Jesus begins the first of these by saying: “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.”

Right away, the primary meaning of this parable is made clear: “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure.” And we could stop right there – noting that Jesus simply wants us to understand how valuable his kingdom is. The idea of treasure speaks very well to the kingdom’s uniqueness, its desirability, and its great worth in comparison to other things of life.

And yet, the Kingdom isn’t just any old treasure either. It is much more. It is a treasure so valuable that it is worth selling everything in order to obtain.

As we know, people will sacrifice quite a bit to buy the things they consider treasures. Think of the prices you may have paid for a special collector’s item or a rare piece of jewelry or an experience in a beautiful and exotic location. It may have been a lot.

But have you sold everything you own for any of these? I’m guessing not. Something that is worth selling everything for must have immense value. And that’s Jesus’ point.

I like the way the first verse of our next hymn describes this: “Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure, my pearl of incomparable worth. Its value exceeds every standard of measure, surpassing the wealth of the earth.”

Think about that line: “Surpassing the wealth of the earth.” I’m sure someone has calculated what they think that number is – like maybe the insurance companies . I can’t even imagine what it would be! But the kingdom of heaven is still more valuable.

The kingdom is so valuable because it consists of a message... a message of values, of purpose, of salvation... written down and recorded in the Holy Scriptures. And the kingdom consists also of people... people who make these values their own and who come together to live by faith.

Most of all, the kingdom consists of a king—the Lord Jesus, who guides the world, who has saved the world, and who inspires our life of values and faith each day.

The kingdom of heaven, also known as the kingdom of God, is priceless. How can one put a value on mercy? Or forgiveness? Or love? Or eternal life?

The question to consider, however, is whether we acknowledge this value. The hymn has us sing: “Your kingdom, O God, is MY glorious treasure.” Is that really your confession?

These parables of Jesus are meant to challenge us, not just comfort us. In both of them, a man sells everything he has in order to gain the treasure. This action recalls the times Jesus said to someone during his ministry: “Go, sell everything you have and give it to the poor, for then you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

This is a teaching about value and priority. Nothing in your life is to be more valuable in your eyes than the kingdom of God. If it is, then you are either in a relationship of unhealthy dependence on that object or person, or you are simply a materialist – stuck with valuing the beauties of the earth over the beauty of God’s Word.

Many years ago, when I was in elementary school, one of my classmates came to school wearing a button that said: “I found it.” I asked her what it meant, and she said that it meant she had found Jesus as her savior. I thought that was pretty cool. I went home and told my mom about it, and she explained that it was a part of a national evangelism campaign that many churches were involved with. When I asked if our church was a part of that campaign she

said “no,” because Lutherans feel it is important not to sound as if we’re giving ourselves credit for our faith, since it is the Holy Spirit who calls us by the Gospel and enlightens us with faith.

I understand that Lutheran teaching. And I believe it to this day. However, every time I hear today’s text, I am also reminded how Jesus once used a parable about finding things to emphasize the value of what we’ve been given, and to express the joy of knowing Christ’s salvation. Expressing that value and joy is important.

I’m guessing that an “I found it” campaign would not work so well in our day and age. We’d come off as appearing either simplistic or smug. It’s much more effective, anyway, to give our message through personal words and actions, which are more meaningful and telling than any button we might wear.

Yet that leads to another problem. Our words and actions are not always so exemplary. They don’t always reflect the value and joy of the kingdom.

We say that the kingdom is our great treasure, but then we turn around and disobey its teachings. We say that God is our great king, but then we fail to trust him. We gather together to do kingdom work, but then we soon desire to step away... often to engage with voices and activities that are non-kingdom at best, or anti-kingdom at worst.



We engage in treasure hunts that have very little if anything to do with God's kingdom. We desire wealth and fame, social standing and respect from the wrong people. We love material things that are shiny and which we are told have value by the people of the world, not which prove their value by the help they give to others.

Yes, these parables of Jesus challenge us. And we need to be challenged.

At the same time, these parables also comfort us. You see, God understands that we are weak. And he knows that we sin. Yet he still loves us.

Not only that, but he is patient with us too. He keeps sowing the seed of His word to call us back to him and to remind us of what he has done for us.

God does all of this because of His Son, Jesus, who, for our sake, turned these parables around.

What do we mean by that? Simply this: while the parables do indeed tell us that Jesus, the king of the kingdom, is our great and priceless treasure, they also hint at something else. Jesus, in his love and mercy, turns the parables around by taking on our role as well as his own.

For our sake, Jesus has become the treasure hunter in the parable. And in this reversal, he sees us as treasure.

We now become the treasure, buried in a field, for which Jesus gives everything—his whole life. We are the fine pearl who Jesus just has to have for himself and for which he gives up everything in order to obtain.

Jesus gave up everything when he went to the cross and died an innocent death. He did this in our place and for our sake. Jesus gave everything in order to save us from the penalty for our sin. He gave everything so that we would be declared righteous in God's sight.

God then confirmed the sacrificial death of Jesus by raising him from the dead. Jesus was raised to his rightful place of glory. And because of this, we will be raised with him someday as well.

God has always treasured his people. In our Old Testament reading today we heard the words of Moses, who, as he was leading the people out of their slavery in Egypt and into the promised land, told them: "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... 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.”

In the same way, God redeems us from the slavery of our sin, because he loves us, and keeps the oath he promised to himself – that sin which is atoned for will be forgiven and forgotten. Jesus atoned for our sin when he gave himself up on the cross.

Eighteen centuries ago, St. Lawrence was the deacon in Rome responsible for the church’s treasury. When a hostile emperor sought to confiscate the church’s assets, Lawrence distributed everything to the poor. When an official demanded to see the church’s wealth, Lawrence gathered the poor before him and said “Behold, here is the Church’s treasure.” The emperor was not amused, and Lawrence was cruelly executed. But that treasure of the church – poor sinners like you and me who have been redeemed by Christ – has endured to this day, far past that long-lost empire.

Jesus was cruelly executed because he saw us poor sinners as treasure; not as enemies nor worthless... but as those he loved.

Yes, the kingdom of God is our glorious treasure... for many, many reasons. But above all because it tells us of Jesus, who shows us how much God treasures his people.

May God then help us to remember this always; and lead us to acknowledge it with our lives. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN OF THE DAY (Stand) Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure LSB 654*

**1 Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious  
treasure,  
My pearl of incomparable worth.  
Its value exceeds every standard of  
measure,  
Surpassing the wealth of the earth.  
Lord, give me Your grace and the power  
of the Spirit  
To value this treasure aright  
That, never allured by the world, I  
inherit  
Your kingdom of glory and light.**

**2 Your kingdom, O God, is alive with the  
power  
Your Word and Your Spirit bestow.  
Like yeast, they affect the whole  
measure of flour,  
Enabling Your kingdom to grow.  
Empower me, Lord, as I live Your  
commission,  
Though humble my service may be,  
And bring every planting to perfect  
fruition,  
A mustard seed grown to a tree.**

- 3 Your kingdom, O God, is a field for the growing  
Of seeds that Your mercy has sown;  
But still in our midst is the enemy sowing  
The weeds that imperil Your own.  
Sustain me, O Lord, till Your day of returning  
And harvest me homeward at last,  
To shine in the homeland that quiets all yearning,  
Where sorrow and danger are past.**

*APOSTLES' CREED*

LSB, Back cover

**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  $\text{✠}$  everlasting. Amen.**

### *OFFERING*

*Offerings support the church's mission work – both here and through our many partners. Offerings may be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance or sent to the church through our website or the mail. Fellowship Cards help us welcome new people and track participation. Please fill one out and place it in the offering box following the service.*

## *PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH*

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, You have redeemed us out of Your steadfast love. Grant that the Gospel may go forth unhindered and Your Spirit bring many into the fellowship of the redeemed. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You have revealed to us the true treasure of Christ's cross and resurrection. Grant that we may therefore pursue Your kingdom with all our hearts, souls, minds and bodies. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You justify us for the sake of Christ. Comfort any who are troubled by the memory of past sins or visited by the temptation to believe they cannot be forgiven. Give them confidence in Christ, that He died for them and still intercedes for them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, You have given each of us various vocations in our lives through which we contribute to the welfare of this world. Grant us faithfulness in these callings, that we may see them as gifts through which we serve You and our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless and preserve Your Holy Church on earth; and lead our Synod as it meets in Convention this week. Cause all delegates and members to serve according to Your good pleasure and will, that in word and action we may together love You and keep Your commandments, confessing Your steadfast love and faithfulness even to a thousand generations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless our land with your good gifts; and grant wisdom to Joseph, our president; Glen, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that they may seek what is best for all in accordance with Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bestow Your comfort upon all who are burdened by sickness and affliction, especially those on our prayer list and those we name in our hearts at this time... Grant that they may await healing and deliverance in the firm conviction that nothing can separate them from Your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, grant that all who partake in Holy Communion today may do so rejoicing that the Christ they receive in this Sacrament also intercedes for them at Your right hand. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your goodness and mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*OFFERTORY*

*Create in Me*

(LSB 956)

- 1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence;  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**



*SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT*

*PREFACE (Stand)*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessèd, blessèd, blessèd is He  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING*

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD*

*THE LORD'S PRAYER*

**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.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**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 Your peace,  
grant us Your peace,  
grant us Your peace.**

*THE COMMUNION (Be seated)*

*The Communion Assistant will come forward to receive first, then those from the pulpit side – by order of pew, front to back. Communicants will come up the center aisle and return via the side aisle. When all from the pulpit side have communed, the baptismal font side will commune in the same manner. We ask that the wine be consumed away from the tray table. Empty cups should be dropped into the receptacles.*

*DISTRIBUTION HYMN      Jesus Comes Today with Healing*

LSB 620

- 1    **Jesus comes today with healing,  
Knocking at my door, appealing,  
    Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.  
He Himself makes preparation,  
And I hear His invitation:  
    "Come and taste the blessèd feast."**
- 2    **Christ Himself, the priest presiding,  
Yet in bread and wine abiding  
    In this holy sacrament,  
Gives the bread of life, once broken,  
And the cup, the precious token  
    Of His sacred covenant.**
- 3    **Under bread and wine, though lowly,  
I receive the Savior holy,  
    Blood and body, giv'n for me,  
Very Lamb of God from heaven,  
Who to bitter death was given,  
    Hung upon the cursèd tree.**

- 4 God descends with heav'nly power,  
Gives Himself to me this hour  
In this ordinary sign.  
On my tongue His pledge receiving,  
I accept His grace, believing  
That I taste His love divine.
- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me,  
With a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,  
Comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
Cleanses me from sin and error,  
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

*NUNC DIMITTIS*

(LSB 937)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,<br>Your word is now fulfilled.<br>These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,<br>This child so long foretold. | 2 This is the Savior of the world,<br>The Gentiles' promised light,<br>God's glory dwelling in our midst,<br>The joy of Israel. |
| 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,<br>To You we lift our voice;<br>To Father, Son, and Spirit blest<br>Be honor, love, and praise.     |   |

*PRAYER (Stand)*

*BENEDICTION*



- 1 From God can nothing move me;  
He will not step aside  
But gently will reprove me  
And be my constant guide.  
He stretches out His hand  
In evening and in morning,  
My life with grace adorning  
Wherever I may stand.
- 2 When those whom I regarded  
As trustworthy and sure  
Have long from me departed,  
God's grace shall still endure.  
He rescues me from sin  
And breaks the chains that bind me.  
I leave death's fear behind me;  
His peace I have within.
- 3 The Lord my life arranges;  
Who can His work destroy?  
In His good time He changes  
All sorrow into joy.  
So let me then be still:  
My body, soul, and spirit  
His tender care inherit  
According to His will.
- 4 Each day at His good pleasure  
God's gracious will is done.  
He sent His greatest treasure  
In Jesus Christ, His Son.  
He ev'ry gift imparts.  
The bread of earth and heaven  
Are by His kindness given.  
Praise Him with thankful hearts!

- 5 Praise God with acclamation  
And in His gifts rejoice.  
Each day finds its vocation  
Responding to His voice.  
Soon years on earth are past;  
But time we spend expressing  
The love of God brings blessing  
That will forever last!
- 6 Yet even though I suffer  
The world's unpleasantness,  
And though the days grow rougher  
And bring me great distress,  
That day of bliss divine,  
Which knows no end or measure,  
And Christ, who is my pleasure,  
Forever shall be mine.
- 7 For thus the Father willed it,  
Who fashioned us from clay;  
And His own Son fulfilled it  
And brought eternal day.  
The Spirit now has come,  
To us true faith has given;  
He leads us home to heaven.  
O praise the Three in One!

*ANNOUNCEMENTS (Be seated)*

*DISMISSAL*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*POSTLUDE*

*From God Can Nothing Move Me*  
Setting: Ralph C. Schultz

*FELLOWSHIP CONTRIBUTORS:* Board of Property Management

Those serving:

Saturday, July 29, 5:00 p.m.:

Greeter: Bob Juenger  
Reader: Anne Kauzlarich  
Flutist: Stephanie Poore

Sunday, July 23, 10:00 a.m.:

Greeter: Michael Chamberlain  
Comm. assist: Jill Hecht  
Reader: Janice Sebring  
AV Assistants: Hannes Buuck  
Andreas Buuck

#### Acknowledgments

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