



# Eight Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

Prelude

*Blessed Be Your Name - ULW #107*

Welcome and Announcements

## Gathering

Gathering Song

*The Power of Your Love - ULW #86*

ULC Invocation & Confession and Forgiveness

Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

\*Hymn of Praise

*Neither Death nor Life - insert*

\*Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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

Let the Children Come.....

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

\*Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Sermon

Pastor Karl Breddin

Song of the Day

*Your Love Never Fails - ULW #143*

\*Apostles' Creed

ULW binder

\*Prayers of Intercession

*The Spirit Intercedes*

\*Lord's Prayer

ULW Binder

\*Peace

## Sending

\*Blessing

\*Sending Song

*At Your Name - ULW #140*

\*Dismissal

## PRELUDE

*Blessed Be Your Name (ULW #107)*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Gathering

## GATHERING SONG:

*The Power of Your Love (ULW #86)*

## ULC INVOCATION

United to experience Jesus, serve others, and live the word, we gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

### Words of Forgiveness

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ? Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Neither Death nor Life (ELW 622)*

### *Refrain*

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come, neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the Spirit who brings you to life. *Refrain*

2 All who are led by the Spirit shall live as children of God, and heirs with Christ Jesus, God's adopted and chosen and loved. *Refrain*

3 All of the suffering we now must endure is nothing to the glory so soon to be revealed when creation itself is set free. *Refrain*

4 All of creation awaits the new birth, the fullness of redemption, through labor pains of love, and so we wait in patience and hope. *Refrain*

5 Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship or distress, persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword? *Refrain*

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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

## LET THE CHILDREN COME...

## FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

*In our first reading, because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

A reading from 1 Kings.

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you."

<sup>6</sup>And 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. <sup>7</sup>And 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. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give 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?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God 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, <sup>12</sup>I 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."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39**

*The words in our second reading celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

A reading from Romans.

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>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 within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

<sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

<sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

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

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>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.”

<sup>33</sup>He 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.”

<sup>44</sup>“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.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And 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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### SONG OF THE DAY

*Your Love Never Fails (ULW #143)*

### APOSTLES' CREED

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 INTERCESSION

*The Spirit Intercedes*

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. 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.

### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

### Sending

### BLESSING

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. Amen.

### SENDING SONG

*At Your Name (ULW #140)*

### DISMISSAL

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

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## The Week Ahead at ULC

Friday: 6PM Wedding Rehearsal  
Saturday: 4PM Shelly Messner &  
Dean Agnes wedding  
Next Sunday: 10AM Worship with Holy  
Communion (4th Graders  
will receive First  
Communion)



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### Today's Faith and Care Leaders

Reader: Darby Hart  
Usher: Edwin Olson & Duane Olson  
Music provided by the ULC Praise Band

### Next Sunday's Leaders

Reader: JoAnn Mueller  
Ushers: Rick & Carolyn Crockett  
Communion Prep: Carol Hart  
Communion Asst: Carol Hart  
Organists: Kathie Johnson & Lisa Schuler

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## Ministry & Mission Information

### Annual Outdoor Worship

Thank you for joining us for our annual outdoor worship! As we will be outdoors, we can SING—something we haven't been able to safely do lately with covid. Today's hymns are in the black binders; offering plates are on the table by the binders. We have some chairs already setup and additional chairs available if needed. If you brought a lawn chair, feel free to set it up wherever you like.

Special thanks to Steve Hart for the use of his outdoor speakers.

We will not have a picnic this year but look forward to resuming that tradition next year.

### Prayer Concerns

Kerlange Aristide in Haiti, her husband Armstrong and baby Zeke, Lois Jones (Val Olson's sister, cancer) & Marie Peterson.

## Thank You

Thank you to Rick Crockett & Lindy Johnson for excavating our parking lot to the curb and to Mikkelsen Construction for adding gravel.

## First Communion Next Sunday

Fourth grade students will receive first communion and Bibles during worship next Sunday, August 2.

## July 16 All-Synod Worship

As part of our virtual Synod Assembly, all churches in our synod are invited to take part in all-synod online worship, Sunday July 16. We will not have in-person worship at ULC that Sunday.

## Resuming In-Person Worship

We thank Mike and Connie for continuing and increasing cleaning and sanitation at the church. For the time being:

- worship and activities will be limited to 75 people or less;
- pews are taped off for social distancing;
- we will refrain from handshakes and passing offering plates;
- we will not have congregational singing (**except when worshipping outdoors**), food or beverage at church;
- worship attendees will be encouraged but not required to wear face masks;
- the congregation will be ushered out following worship services;
- we will continue offering online worship opportunities on Facebook.

(Some of this is more for indoor services!)

## Last Sunday, July 19

Not including those who tuned in online, 35 disciples were sent out from our in-person worship in God's name to make a difference and \$13,550 was given to support our ministry. Gifts given online through [tithe.ly](https://tithely.com) are included in the last Sunday of the month total.

(There were several large yearly offerings and catch up by the looks of donations.)

## Large Print Bulletins

If you struggle reading this, the words on the screen, your pew hymnal or pew Bible, we have large print bulletins available which include the full service order of today's worship.

## **Summer Bible Camp**

With Covid concerns, both PRBC and Red Willow have suspended summer programs for 2020. Metigoshe resumed with limited summer programs in July.

## **Binders Available**

We have updated the black ULW binders for our contemporary worship services and are reducing the number of binders. If you could use any (8.5"x7"), feel free to pick them up from the church library. They still have the old song sheets in them.

## **Cloth Face Masks**

Last month, Joanne Field donated a number of homemade cloth face masks which have been available to worshipers at church. We are now in need of additional cloth mask donations. Can you help?

## **Outdoor Concerts at PRBC**

Come to PRBC to enjoy these free-will Sunday evening outdoor concerts! August 2, Rachel Kurtz and August 9, The Wood Picks. Please bring your own lawn chair. Concerts will also be streamed on Park River Bible Camp's Facebook page.

## **Am I Called?**

A discernment conversation by Zoom for high school students, Wednesdays at 11am. Session one, "Vocation—Am I Called?" (July 29). Session two, "Public Ministry in the ELCA—Pastors, Deacons, and More" (Aug.5). Session three, "How do I get there? College, Seminary and Other Things You Need to Know" (Aug.12).

There is no charge and students can attend one or more of the events on Zoom; register in advance at [swmnsynod.formstack.com/forms/discernment](https://swmnsynod.formstack.com/forms/discernment).

## **Eastern North Dakota Synod News**

The Eastern North Dakota Synod is currently seeking faithful candidates for the synod leadership positions below. See Pastor Karl for more information.

- Synod Secretary (4-year term)
- Youth Representative to the Synod Council (1-year term)
- A Layperson and Minister of Word and Sacrament to serve on the synod discipline committee (6 year term)

**Welcome to United!** We are glad you're here and we pray today's worship would be a blessing to you. Children are welcome here; we have a "quiet space" just in our fellowship area just out our sanctuary's south doors and a nursery with a speaker available to listen to the worship service. If you are looking for a church home or would like more information, please let Pastor Karl know.

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Name(s)		
Email	Phone	
Address		
City	State	Zip

- I/we received communion today (please indicate at least annually)
- I contributed my offering with Bill Pay through my bank
- Prayers requested/answered:
- I would like a Pastor to call regarding:

Today, I am a

- Member
- First Time Visitor
- Second Time Visitor
- Regular Visitor

Please send me information about membership in United Lutheran Church

I am a member of another church. Where?

What brought you to United today?