

*Our Tree of Life*



July 30, 2023

## First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

320-839-2527

Reverend Denise Fossen

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**



9:00 am

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### PREPARATION

Prelude

Bells

Welcome & Announcements

### GATHERING

#### **Greeting & Passing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

**Confession and Forgiveness** P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **C: Amen.**

P: Merciful God, **C: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P: Righteous God, **C: we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P: God is a cup of cold water...in the name of † Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

'Gather Us In'

#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.**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Gather Us In, Marty Haugen.  
Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358.

Greeting

pg. 213

*'Glory to God'*

pg. 213

*(Refrain):* **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *(Refrain)***

**2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. *(Refrain)***

**3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Final Refrain:* **Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.**

Contributors: Thomas Pavlechko. Tune: © 2006, Augsburg Fortress Text: English Language Liturgical Consultation.

Prayer of the Day: **P: Beloved and sovereign God, C: 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**

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12

OT pg. 238-239

Psalm 119:129-136

ELW Psalm 119

L: <sup>129</sup> Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C: <sup>130</sup> **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

L: <sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

**C: <sup>132</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

L: <sup>133</sup> Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**C: <sup>134</sup> Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

L: <sup>135</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

**C: <sup>136</sup> My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

NT pg. 121

Special Music

VBS children

Noisy Offering

Gospel Acclamation

*'Alleluia. Lord to whom.....'*

pg. 216

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Text & Music: ©1999 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Contributors: Robin Cain

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

NT pg. 11-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

Sermon

Pastor Denise Fossen

Hymn of the Day *'To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared'*

*Sheet Music on the next page.*

**To what can the kingdom of God be compared? A mustard seed falls where a field's been prepared, And there, where predictable plantings should be, There grows up a wild bush — as big as a tree! God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise: Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives. Your reign is amazing, your ways still astound, Just like that new life springing forth from the ground.**

**A small bit of leaven will change the whole bread: A poor woman sees that her neighbors are fed, A church reaches out to the youth in the town, A man shares his faith and God's blessings abound. God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise: Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives. Your reign is among us, creation is blessed, When even a few faithful lives change the rest.**

**While some look for treasure or one priceless pearl, God's reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world. A girl sells possessions to help those in need; A boy**

chooses faithfulness rather than greed. God of love, here on earth, hidden things still surprise: Loving deeds ... signs of birth ... faithful, Spirit-filled lives. Your reign is a treasure that wise ones pursue; May we seek your kingdom in all that we do.

## To What Can the Kingdom of God be Compared?

TO GOD BE THE GLORY 11.11.11.11 with refrain ("To God be the Glory")

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 3/4. It consists of ten staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are as follows:

To what can the king - dom of God be com - pared? A  
A small bit of lea - ven will change the whole bread; A  
5 While some look for treas - ure or one price - less pearl, God's  
must - ard seed falls where a field's been pre - pared, And there, where pre -  
poor wo - man sees that her neigh - bors are fed, A church rea - ches  
10 reign is the gift wise ones seek in this world. A girl sells poss -  
dict - a - ble plant - ings should be, There grows up a wild bush, - as  
out to the youth in the town, A man shares his faith and God's  
15 ess - ions to help those in need; A boy choos - es faith - ful - ness  
big as a tree! God of love, here on earth, hid - den things still sur -  
20 bless - ings a - bound. God of love, here on earth, hid - den things still sur -  
rath - er than greed. God of love, here on earth, hid - den things still sur -  
prise; Lov - ing deeds... signs of birth... faith - ful, Spi - rit - filled lives. Your  
25 *prise: Lov - ing deeds... signs of birth... faith - ful, Spi - rit - filled lives. Your*  
*prise: Lov - ing deeds... signs of birth... faith - ful, Spi - rit - filled lives. Your*  
reign is a - maz - ing, your ways still as - tound, Just  
30 *reign is a - mong us, cre - a - tion is blessed, When*  
reign is a trea - sure that wise ones pur - sue; May  
like that new life spring - ing forth from the ground.  
e - ven a few faith - ful lives change the rest.  
we seek your king - dom in all that we do.

Biblical Reference: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875 ("To God Be the Glory")

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

**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 for the People of God

P: ... Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

### **MEAL**

#### **Offering Collection and Presentation**

Offertory Hymn

*'For the Fruit of All Creation'*

#679

**1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God. For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

**2. In the just reward of labor, God's will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done. In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God. For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000. Music: Welsh Traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958.

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Offertory Prayer **C: Amen.**

Thanksgiving for the Word Prayer

pg. 220

Lord's Prayer

pg. 221

**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.**

### **SENDING**

Benediction

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed †

bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest. **C: We Will! Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

'Sent Forth by God's Blessing'

#547

**1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended the fruits of this service in all who believe. The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

**2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living, the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face— our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children, the whole human race. With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Music: Welsh folk tune.

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Bells

Postlude

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*Revelations 22- Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*

If you have pastoral needs, please call Pastor Denise anytime at 763-516-2026.

**Welcome to all visitors and guests!** May the joy of Christ fill you as we worship today. Friendship Pads are at the ends of each pew (by middle aisle). Fill them out, pass them on to your neighbor(s), and send them back to the middle aisle. Please join us downstairs following worship for coffee and fellowship.

**KDIO Radio Broadcast** is sponsored by Liz Ketz in honor of all the volunteers and students that made VBS a success! [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].


**OFFERING UPDATE:** Here are the expenses for June: \$23,275.18. Here is what we received: \$16,183.83. We deficit spent \$7,091.35. This resulted in a transfer from Operating Reserves of \$10,000. You're also encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at [www.firstenglish.net](http://www.firstenglish.net). 

**Happy Birthday wishes** go out to Sharon Carlson whose birthday is this Wednesday.

**Attending Green Lake Bible Camp** this week are Jordan and Riley. Please add these youth to your prayers to have a safe and inspirational time this week.

**This week is the Noisy Offering** and we thought we would remind you where this money goes. We support 4 South African Students through our congregation. The Youth Group sponsors one student and the remaining 3 are sponsored by the Noisy Offering. Each students' tuition is \$300 a year. Your generosity helps us meet these obligations.

**If you want to support VBS**, please make a note in the memo section or on the envelope that you would like the money designated for Vacation Bible School.

**We are looking for volunteers** to prepare and serve coffee on Sundays going forward. Please contact the office if you are willing to help. If no one volunteers, we may not be able to have coffee fellowship after our services. 

**The Red Cross Bloodmobile** will be at the Bellingham Community Center from 12:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1. Accepting both whole blood and power red donations. Call Audrey Volkenant at (320) 568-2385 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to set up an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome if there's an open time slot.

**Salad Sunday Today:** The United Methodist Presbyterian Church of Browns Valley, MN will be sponsoring its annual Super Salad Sunday today. The menu includes a variety of salads, egg salad and ham sandwiches and bars for dessert. Serving time is from 11:00 to 1:00. All this for only: Adults - \$10.00 & Kids (12 & under) - \$5.00!!

**We are seeking to fill** the FELC Youth Leader position. It will start at approx. 20-hours per week during school year, less in the summer. Limited evenings and weekend hours for youth ministry activities and chaperoning youth events and trips. There is potential for future growth in hours with program growth. If you, or someone you know is interested, please drop off resume and references at the church office or e-mail them to the pastor at [pastor@firstenglish.net](mailto:pastor@firstenglish.net).

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT** for Ricky Anderson Jr., Carol Barrett; Glenn Berdan; Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Brandi Tweeter; Paul Erdman; Beckett Foster; Baby Rosie Frank; Larry Helgeson; Natalie Henneberg; Baby McCoy Jipson; Zane Kilde; Brian Pribyl; Janice Redfield; David Scholberg; Jerry Stotesbery; and Terry Ward. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Janet Anderson; Arvilla Bergseth; Ruth Hansen; Jim Hipple; Vivian Janssen; & Eleanor Nickolauson. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict. If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office.





**REMINDER:** Calendar and other important information is on our website at [www.firstenglish.net](http://www.firstenglish.net) and on the bulletin board (kiosk) in the narthex. The church office number is (320)839-2527.

### **This Week's Ministry Assistants— July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Organist:** Amy Adelman **Lector:** Barb Wiese  
**Tech Desk:** David Ellingson & Marina Thomson **Acolytes:** Bryson & Cameron  
**Ushers:** Rodney Torgerson, Tami Lundberg, Mel & Jackie Domine  
**Greeters:** Marilyn Chindvall & Kirsten Karels **Coffee Servers:** Nornes  
**FWV:** Marilyn Chindvall & Becky Parker

### **Next Week's Ministry Assistants— August 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Organist:** Kathy Haukos **Lector:** Jim Schmeichel  
**Tech Desk:** Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson **Acolytes:** Eliot & Brandon  
**Lay Assistants:** Becky Parker & Lori Larson **FWV:** TBD  
**Ushers:** Brent Zahrbock, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson  
**Greeters:** Liz Ketz & Becky Parker **Coffee Servers:** TBD

## **Weekly Calendar**

**Sun – 7/30** 9:00 am Worship – Noisy Offering – KDIO & FB Live  
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship  
10:20 am WAM meeting  
10:30 am Fairway View Worship – Pre-recorded

**Mon – 7/31** 10:00 am Staff Meeting

**Tues – 8/1** 8:30 am Day of Love

**Wed – 8/2** 9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast  
5:30 pm Channel 3 broadcast

**Fri – 8/4** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

**Sun – 8/6** 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO & FB Live  
10:00 am Coffee Fellowship  
10:30 am Fairway View Worship LIVE



July 30, 2023, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.*



**Pray:** Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

**Gracious God, your Son spoke to us in parables about the nature of your reign. Give us ears to hear and hearts to understand that we might be instruments of your peace and justice. Amen.**



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

*<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." (Matthew 13:33)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**Jesus often taught using parables. We can enter into those parables with varying experiences of understanding. We can peek at glimpses of what the kingdom of heaven may be like as we listen.**



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**What do you think the kingdom of heaven is like? Is God's kingdom here on earth or up in heaven? Or both?**

**For the littles: Have you ever made bread? What does yeast do?**



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May God's love be found throughout the dough of your life. Amen.**



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

**Make a photo journal this week of all the things you see that are evidence that God's kingdom is here on earth. Post your pics.**

**#godskingdom**



**Go Deeper:** Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 30:25-36; James 3:13-18

Tuesday, Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 30:37-43; Ephesians 6:10-18

Wednesday, Psalm 65:8-13; Genesis 46:2-47:12; Mark 4:30-34

Thursday, Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 14:1-2; Philippians 4:10-15

Friday, Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 41:8-10; Romans 9:6-13

Saturday, Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 31:1-21; Matthew 7:7-11