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Eighth Sunday after Pentecost | July 23rd, 2023

\*Please stand

As you are able

**Welcome and Announcements**

Trinity Chimes

**Prelude**  *Thy Word* arr. Phillip Keverin

**\*Call to Worship:**

One: God of small seeds and hidden miracles

**All: You tend us with good care**

One: You grow us with grace, love, and forgiveness

**All: So that we might flourish, spreading your good gifts to the ends of the earth.**

\*Hymn of Praise 139 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

1. Praise to the Lord,  
   the Almighty, the King of creation.  
   O my soul, praise him,  
   for he is thy health and salvation!  
   All ye who hear,  
   now to his temple draw near;  
   join me in glad adoration!  
     
   2. Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigning bears thee on eagle’s wings, e’er in his keeping maintaining. God’s care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds. Hast thou not known his sustaining?  
     
   3. Praise to the Lord,  
   who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
   surely his goodness  
   and mercy here daily attend thee.  
   Ponder anew  
   what the Almighty can do,  
   who with his love doth befriend thee.  
     
   4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee, fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee. Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed, spreading the wings of grace o’er thee.

5. Praise to the Lord!  
O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly forever adore him.

Opening Prayer

**Holy Gardener, you plant each of us like seeds, and in the same field together we are nourished and nurtured by the sun.  We sway in the wind and are refreshed by the rain.  And each day you grow us towards what you call us to be.  Root us and shape us in the image of your love and grace.  Amen.**

Adapted from a prayer by Moira Laidlaw, Liturgies Online

Scripture Lesson Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (UMH 854)

O Lord, you have searched me and know me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord,

you know it altogether.

You pursue me behind and before,

and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

It is high, I cannot attain it.

Whither shall I go from your spirit?

Or whither shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

If I take the wings of the morning

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

even there your hand shall hold me.

and your right hand shall hold me.

If I say, “Let only darkness cover me,

and the light about me be night;”

even the darkness is not dark to you,

the night is bright as the day;

for darkness is as light with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts;

and see if there be any wicked way in me,

and lead me in the way everlasting!

Hymn of Preparation 583 *You Are the Seed* IDY ENSENAD

1. You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you’re a

Star that will shine in the night; you are the yeast and a

Small grain of salt, a beacon to glow in the dark.

You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you’re the

Wheat that will bear golden grain; you are the sting and a

Soft, gentle touch, my witness where’re you go.

Refrain

Go, my friends, go to the world, proclaiming love to all,

Messengers of my forgiving peace, eternal love.

Be, my friends, a loyal witness, from the dead I arose; “Lo, I’ll be with you forever, till the end of the world”

1. You are the life that will nurture the plant; you’re the waves in a turbulent sea; yesterday’s yeast is beginning to rise, a new loaf of bread it will yield. There is no place for a city to hide, nor a mountain can cover its might; may your good deeds show a world in despair a path that will lead all to God.

Refrain

Gospel Lesson Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon Ordinary Weeds

Musical Response

Prayers of the People

Confession and Pardon

God of all creation, we praise you that in Christ the good seed you have planted flourishes and grows and that with your patient care harvests are bountiful beyond imagining.  But we confess that often we are obsessed with the weeds of life, wading through them lost, tearing them out regardless of the damage to the garden, mistaking what we do not like and do not know for weeds rather than the beauty of diversity.  Teach us your patient care, reminding us that sometimes it is in growing together that the fullness of your kingdom comes through.  Turn us back to the work of tending so that all might flourish.  Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: God walked upon this earth

sharing our human life in Jesus Christ,

All: God has conquered sin and death forgiving us all

through Love and Grace

Leader: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

People: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Glory to God, amen!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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. Amen

\*Passing of the Peace

Invitation Offering

Let us now lift up our tithes and offering as the usher’s come forward to receive our gifts.

Offertory *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Fred Bock

\*Doxology 95 *Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

\*Offertory Prayer

\*Sending Hymn 393 *Spirit of the Living God* LIVING GOD

1 & 3. Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

2. Spirit of the living God, Move among us all;

Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love;

Humble, caring, selfless, sharing.

Spirit of the living God, Move among us all.

\*Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all.

Postlude *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho* arr. Mark Hayes

Liturgist: Iris Washburn

Stephen Minister: Gretchen Lofgren

Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who made this service possible.

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“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680

“Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)*”*

Words: Cesareo Gabarain, 1979 trans, by Raquel Gutierrez-Achon

And Skinner Chavez-Melo (Mt. 28:19-20)

“Spirit of the Living God”

Words: Daniel Iverson, 1926 (Acts 11:15)

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