

RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Radisson, SK

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Ministers: Members of the Congregation
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Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day:

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

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

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

Reflection - Pastor Melissa

It strikes me how readily the disciples reply "Yes!" when Jesus asks them if they have understood all he has said in today's gospel text. Did they truly understand God's Kingdom? If we think about their actions and reactions to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection we might wonder. How would we respond if Jesus asked the question of us? Like the people of God before us, we are enlightened, empowered, given discernment . . . and we forget sometimes.

Maybe our problem is that the kingdom of God is not always what we would want or expect. I've spent hours this year yanking up mustard plants that tower over my head, which I would have never guessed were there in the spring. Hiding leaven in flour can backfire, especially for the Jewish people who have specific rules to follow about when they can and cannot eat leavened bread. Putting all your eggs in one basket is a bad idea, be it land or jewels. We don't like waiting for someone else to sort out the good from the bad in this world or hearing that the kingdom experience in this world can be a mixed bag.

But the good news is that our biggest surprise has already happened, and it's a great one. Jesus has covered our mistakes for all time and shown in his death and resurrection that we are God's beloved forever. We are free to pursue kingdom truth. We have the grace to learn, to get it, to get it wrong, and then to try again.

One day, the net will be drawn up, the harvest will take place, and everything that is good will continue into eternity. We will truly understand all this, because we will be living the fulfillment of God's kingdom for eternity. Until that day, may we pay attention to the kingdom being revealed all around us, and may we never stop learning. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A Brief Silence

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick (especially ...). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness to your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Blessing: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

Let us remember in our prayers: Ida Muller at home, Sonia Zacharias, Darren Wilkie, Carla Wilkie, Connie Verishine, Susan Wonko, Gloria Hamp, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamsen, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp and to everyone affected by COVID 19

Pastor Melissa's worship video can be found at:
<https://youtu.be/YEQwNpdenyg>

For other worship services/devotions you could check out the following:

- Livestreams are available at:

<https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>

- Pastor Randy Fiege at 10:00a on Facebook, as well as YouTube.

Thank you to those who stay connected and in touch with our members who may feel isolated and lonely, the elderly and others in our community by a phone call or sharing online worship services with those who do not have internet.

The Sask Synod office is moving! As of **August 4**, the Saskatchewan Synod Office will relocate to:
#6 - 2220 Northridge Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7L 6X8

Camp Kinasao will be offering Day Camp:

July 27-30 (Ages 5-10)

August 3-6 (Ages 5-13)

All Day Camps run 9:00-4:00. Cost is \$185 + GST, and includes camp activities, camp shirt, and canteen.

Also offered will be 2 "QuaranTEEN" days:

July 26 & August 9 - Ages 14-16

QuaranTEEN runs 1:00-8:00p. Cost is \$50 + GST, and includes camp activities, camp shirt, and canteen.

For more information or to register for any of these camps, visit <http://www.kinasao.ca/camp-kinasao/2020-summer-programs>.

Sunday worship services begin July 19, at 11:00a! Due to limited capacity, we ask that attendees register in advance. To learn more about the guidelines that will be in place, to register, and to see the schedule of pastors, visit <http://www.kinasao.ca/welcome/sunday-worship>.

Donations to your church can still be given:

First Sask - You can mail your cheque to Roxanne Elke, P.O. Box 272, Grandora, SK S0K 1V0.

St. Paul - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

Happy Birthday this week: Doris Lerch, Ryan Krsacok, Jordyn Olson, Evan Westad, Jordan Westad, Diane Sanjenko

FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 3:5-12

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

⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ 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, ¹² 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.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:26-39

²⁶ Likewise 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. ²⁷ 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.

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

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² 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? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

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

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² 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."

³³ 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."

⁴⁴ "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.

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

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

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”

⁵² 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.”