

Today's Guest Preacher: Vicar Todd Wielgos

Vicar Todd has spent over 39 years as a research scientist at Baxter Healthcare. He calls Fellowship of Faith Lutheran Church in McHenry his church home where he is on the Elder Board and has started his Specific Ministry Pastoral (SMP) program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.



Thursday, July 20, and Sunday, July 23, 2023

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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If you have prayer requests you'd like included in our worship prayers, please go to the one of the Prayer List stands and write them down. They will be given to Vicar Todd before the worship prayers.

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:



TOM SCHULTZ IN MEMORY OF HIS SISTER MERI-BETH AND IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN'S BIRTHDAY



ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SING

This service is based on the Praise service in the hymn/songbook, All God's People Sing.

Opening Hymn

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

LSB 901 sts. 1-3, 5



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty; Zi - on, let me
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore Thee; Come Thou al - so
 3 Here Thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed; Here Thy seed is
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be



en - ter there, Where my soul in joy - ful du - ty
 un - to me. Where we find Thee and a - dore Thee,
 du - ly sown. Let my soul, where it is plant - ed,
 done in - deed. May I un - dis - turbed draw near Thee



Waits for Him who an - swers prayer. Oh, how bless - ed
 There a heav'n on earth must be. To my heart, O
 Bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone, So that all I
 While Thou dost Thy peo - ple feed. Here of life the



is this place, Filled with sol - ace, light, and grace!
 en - ter Thou; Let it be Thy tem - ple now!
 hear may be Fruit - ful un - to life in me.
 foun - tain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

Invocation

V: In the Name of God the Father: **C: Praise to our creating God!**
V: In the Name of His Son, Jesus: **C: Praise to our redeeming God!**
V: In the Name of God the Spirit: **C: Praise to our renewing God!**
V: Let us join our thankful voices, **C: Amen! Amen! Praise the Lord!**

Confession (based on Psalm 51)

V: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your unfailing love;
C: according to Your great compassion, wipe out our sin.
V: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy on us.
V: Create in me a pure heart, O God,
C: and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
V: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy on us.
V: O Lord, open my lips,
C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.
V: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C: have mercy on us. Amen.

Absolution (based on Psalm 103)

V: The LORD is merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
 He does not deal with you according to your sins,
 nor repay you according to your iniquities.
 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
 as far as the east is from the west,
 so far does he remove your transgressions from you.
 According to this Word from the Lord, and in the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ
 was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins.
C: Amen. Bless the Lord, O my soul! Bless His Holy Name! Amen.

Acknowledgements

This service is based on the Praise service in *All God's People Sing*. Other portions adapted from *Lutheran Service Book*.

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Song of Praise

Great is Thy Faithfulness

LSB 809, sts. 1,3



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Refrain

Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Words of Praise

V: From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise;

C: Alleluia! Alleluia!

V: Let the redeemer's name be sung, Through every land, by every tongue.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia!

V: Eternal are Your mercies, Lord; Eternal truth attends Your Word;

C: Alleluia! Alleluia!

V: Your praise shall sound from shore to shore, 'Til suns shall rise and set no more.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

V: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

V: Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Psalm (read responsively)

Psalm 66:8-12 (ESV)

V: ⁸Bless our God, O peoples;

C: let the sound of his praise be heard,

V: ⁹who has kept our soul among the living

C: and has not let our feet slip.

V: ¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;

C: you have tried us as silver is tried.

V: ¹¹You brought us into the net;

C: you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

V: ¹²you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water;

C: yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

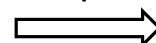
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

New Testament Letter

James 1:2-12 (ESV)

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person



must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Song of the Day

Thy Word Is a Lamp

LSB 973

Refrain



Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet And a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a - fraid, think I've lost my way,
2 I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet My



Still You're there right be - side me. And
heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing.



noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near.
Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; And



Please be near me to the end. _____
I will love You to the end. _____

Refrain

Sermon

Confession of Faith

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 everlasting. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Praise for the Wisdom of God – a Gift to Us Through the Holy Spirit

V: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

C: *The Lord is worthy of eternal praise.*

V: The wisdom of God transforms our “heart life.”

C: *The Lord is worthy of eternal praise.*

V: Lord, teach us to number our days, and live according to Your wisdom.

C: *The Lord is worthy of eternal praise.*

V: In Christ, we have received the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

C: *The Lord is worthy of eternal praise.*

V: May the body of Christ be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

C: *The Lord is worthy of eternal praise. Amen.*

Offering

Offertory

We Give Thee But Thine Own

LSB 781 sts. 1–2

(Sung as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive



All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

V: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

Benediction

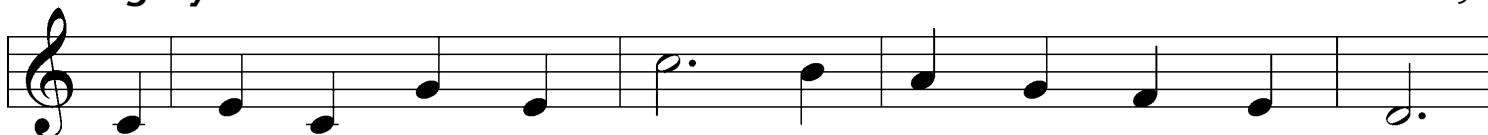
V: The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

On What Has Now Been Sown

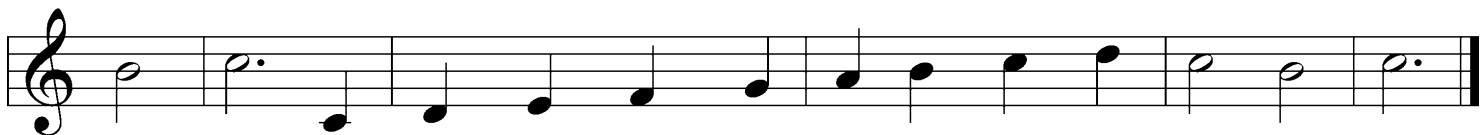
LSB 921



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89

Announcements