



SERVICE ORDER
Sunday, 23 July
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**Guide us, Lord,
to think and do always what is right.
Enable us, who cannot exist without you,
to live according to your will.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCE: ROMANS 8:15

*God's spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him.
Instead, we become his children and call him our father.*
**God's spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him.
Instead, we become his children and call him our father.**

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GOD HIMSELF IS PRESENT

**let us now adore him and with awe appear before him.
God is in his temple, let us all keep silence, worshipping with deepest reverence.
We will name him alone as our God and Saviour; praise his name forever.**

**God himself is present; hear the music sounding,
see the hosts the throne surrounding. 'Holy, holy, holy',
hear the hymn ascending, saints' and angels' voices blending.
Lord, come near to us here,
hear the prayers and praises that your church now raises.**

**God, from heavenly glory, visiting the lowly,
live with us and make us holy. Like the holy angels
worshipping before you, may we ceaselessly adore you.
As we live, always give
hearts that want to please you as we daily serve you.**

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

**Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins,
and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your
punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the
sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be
gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to
die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He
has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit.
Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.*

PSALM 139:1-12,23,24

¹ *You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.*

² *You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.*

³ *You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.*

⁴ *Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.*

⁵ *You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.*

⁶ *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.*

Your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,'

*¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; he night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.*

Your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

**Glory to the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray for hope for our final redemption.

[silence]

**Teach us, Jesus our Saviour,
to live with patience here on earth,
confident that you will finally take us,
with all your faithful people,
to be with you forever.
For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a Jacob dreams of a ladder from heaven to earth

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it

under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it^[a] stood the LORD, and he said: 'I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.^[b] ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' ¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, 'Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.' ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.' ¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel,^[c] though the city used to be called Luz.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25 Our future glory is beyond compare

² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation – but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.^[a] And by him we cry, 'Abba,^[b] Father.' ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that^[c] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*At the end of the age the Son of Man will send his angels,
and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 The parable of the weeds

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed ears, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ 'The owner's servants came to him and said, "Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?" ²⁸ "'An enemy did this," he replied. 'The servants asked him, "Do you want us to go and pull them up?" ²⁹ "'No," he answered, "because while you are pulling up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: first collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'" ³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.' ³⁷ He answered, 'The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ 'As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

**Lord Jesus, thank you for sowing good seed
in the world.**

May we be like wheat, not weeds.

Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

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, dead, and 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**

THE WORLD IS WAITING

**The world is waiting eagerly to see God's hidden ones.
The world in chains will be set free with His daughters and His sons.**

**It groans in earth and sea and sky like a woman's birth-bed pain,
and, though the Spirit blows a morning wind, we groan again:**

**How long, our Father God, how long – like earth and sky and sea –
how long will we, your children, grown in deep futility?**

**For you will raise us from our lonely grave to live and stand
as sons and daughters of your love, inheriting your land.**

**Our suff'rings we can hardly bear nor see what they may mean,
except that ours may share in his who felt an edge more keen.**

**A hope we have, but cannot see what still is out of sight:
a glory waits to touch our pain with resurrection light.**

**Then we shall see a newborn sky, a newborn earth below,
a newborn city, lit by love, where nothing false will go.**

**And God will live with humankind – they will be his people sure –
and he will wipe their tears away, and death shall be no more.**

**Upon the throne the King will sit who went down into hell
and won a Lamb's way to the tree of life where all is well.**

**Beside a river bright and clear, with fruit on every arm,
the tree will grow the goodly leaves to heal the nations' harm.**

**Amen, amen! Lord Jesus, come! Make everything anew!
Bring water in our wilderness, change us from false to true!**

**Oh, may your kingdom come, our God, our life and hope and sun!
Oh, as in heav'n, so now by us, may your good will be done!**

**Chester Schultz, 18 Charlton Street, Exeter SA 5019 1975, 1993
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SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon,
or Read and Discuss the Sermon
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

**Your love surrounds me like a tent around me on a dark and stormy night.
Tho' fear is creeping as the darkness deepens, I will stay beside this light.**

***I will live with You for ever, I will live inside Your shelter.
I will live with You for ever in the house of God.***

**When death was coming, I was helpless, running, but I had no place to hide.
O, Jesus heard me cryin', Jesus saw me dyin', He came to my side.**

***I will live with You for ever, I will live inside Your shelter.
I will live with You for ever in the house of God.***

**You left Your Father, O, my baby brother, for the manger and the cross.
Your death is life for me, You killed my enemy, O, death has fin'ly lost.**

*I will live with You for ever, I will live inside Your shelter.
I will live with You for ever in the house of God.*

The broken people, and the poor and feeble find a place of shelter here.
There's room for more to come and join the Father's Son, His love will take your fear.

*I will live with You for ever, I will live inside Your shelter.
I will live with You for ever in the house of God.*

Robin Mann 1978
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OFFERING PRAYER

*We thank you, Lord, for giving us your Spirit
and making us your own.
Help us to live as your children
among those around us.
Keep us faithful,
serving you and other people.
Amen.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*God has given us his Spirit, and by the Spirit we pray to him as our Father. So let us
bring our requests to God.*

Almighty God and Creator, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. How majestic is your name in all the earth. We praise and thank you for making and upholding all things day by day. For our bodies and minds with all their powers, for food and clothing, home and family, daily work and all we need from day to day, we give you thanks. Open our eyes and ears to your creative presence in our daily lives; and open the eyes of our hearts to your Son through your word.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We thank you for your new creation – your church, the body of your Son – in whom we receive grace and mercy. Bless and protect your church throughout the world that she may preach the gospel in all its truth unhindered to all people. Equip the leaders of our church, and today we commend to you our Bishop *Paul Smith* and our District Bishop *Mark Vainikka*. By your Holy Spirit enable them to carry out their callings with joy, strength and wisdom.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We thank you for ordering our country and society by means of our government and elected leaders. Bless those in positions of responsibility that they may willingly strive for truth and justice, and so be your instruments of care and protection. We particularly pray that they would continue to grant freedom of religious expression so that the church may publicly declare that there is no salvation apart from your Son Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Grant your healing and peace to all we know are unwell or undergoing medical treatment. Watch over them, give them confidence in your good and gracious will for them and guide the surgeons, doctors, nurses and other health professionals who care for them.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Graciously protect us from fire and flood, from war and disease, from famine and strife and from every kind of disaster. Support all people in their proper vocation, particularly those who are overworked and those whose work is difficult and dangerous. Help all those who are unemployed or underemployed to find suitable work. Bless our arts and culture, our science and technology. Be with all widows and widowers, and provide for all children who have lost their parents. Comfort those who are lonely and those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Almighty and merciful Father, hear us, your children, as we bring our prayers to you. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come,
Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.

God be praised forevermore.

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favour, and give you peace.

Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

*May you live and grow as a child of God's kingdom,
belonging to him now and always.*

**May you live and grow as a child of God's kingdom,
belonging to him now and always.**

WORDS OF SENDING

Go in peace

to live as God's children.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

May the feet of God walk with you

**May the feet of God walk with you,
and His hand hold you tight.**

**May the eye of God rest on you,
and His ear hear your cry.**

**May the smile of God be for you,
and His breath give you life.**

**May the Child of God grow in you,
and His love bring you home.**

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HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading (a): Genesis 28:10-19a

LHS

- 250 How blessed is this place, O God G5
- 251 Only-begotten, Word of God eternal* G6
- 400 From God shall naught divide me* G3
- 456 The God of Abraham praise G7
- 501 God Himself is present* G3
- 503 We love the place, O God
- 507 Open now thy gates of beauty* G3
- 888 May the feet of God walk with you GS

AT

- 10 In the house of God
- 90 Father, bless us as we go
- 194 May the feet of God walk with you
- 399 Holding out your hand
- 433 You were in this place

Second reading: Romans 8:12-25

LHS

- 121 Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord* G4
- 134 Come, O come, Thou quickening Spirit* G3
- 228 Lord Jesus Christ, the cause is Thine* G3
- 265 How blest are they who hear God's Word* G3
- 323 Blessed are the sons of God* G4
- 331 My hope is built on nothing less* G5
- 353 Holy Father, Thou has taught me* G5
- 469 Come ye people, rise and sing (esp v 4)* G4
- 503 We love the place, O God
- 507 Open now thy gates of beauty* G3
- 774 Holy Spirit, ever dwelling G6
- 777 Father in heaven GS
- 805 We are heirs of the Father GS
- 828 I am baptised, O blessed day GS
- 829 I was made a Christian G5
- 846 The candles are lit GS

AT

- 10 In the house of God
- 12 We are heirs of the Father
- 71 Face to face

- 105 Spirit of God
- 115 Father in heaven
- 251 God sends us his Spirit
- 396 We come to you, Father
- 398 A child of God
- 425 God moving
- 448 Loving Spirit
- 453 The world is waiting
- 502 Patiently waiting for you

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

LHS

- 197 Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word* G5
- 228 Lord Jesus Christ, the cause is thine* G3
- 260 Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide* G3
- 353 Holy Father, Thou hast taught me* G5
- 507 Open now thy gates of beauty* G3
- 564 Come, ye thankful people, come G4