9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST **JULY 26, 2026**

GREETING
P: Gathered in Christ.
C: We serve with grace.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.
C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG *"Gather Us In"*..... #532

PRAYER OF THE DAY
C: 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.

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 great people of yours?” [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.” The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:129-136

[129] Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.
[130] **When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**
[131] I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.
[132] **Turn to me and be gracious to me,**
as you always do to those who love your name.
[133] Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.
[134] **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**
[135] Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.
[136] **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8”26-39

[26] The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. [27] And God, who searches hearts, 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, how 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 who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. [35] Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction 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 victorious 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. The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
P: *Alleluia.*
C: Many will come from east and west and will eat in the kingdom of heaven. *Alleluia.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.
31 [Jesus] put before [the crowds] 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 a man found and reburied; 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 become a disciple in the kingdom of
heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new
and what is old." The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Be Thou My Vision"*..... #793

APOSTLES' CREED
C: 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 OF INTERCESSION
P: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG "*GIVE THANKS*"
C: Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the holy one. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say I am rich; because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. Give thanks.

OFFERING PRAYER
P: Loving God, we offer you our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can know your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: 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.

BLESSING
P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING SONG *"God of Grace and God of Glory"* ..... #705

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SONG OF PEACE
C: My peace I give unto you. It's a peace that the world cannot give. It's a peace that the world cannot understand; peace to know; peace to live. My peace I give unto you.

DISMISSAL
P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
C: Thanks be to God.