

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

**The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost** – July 23, 2023

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

My word shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it. *Isaiah 55.11*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All-Ages Song: *God Has Got A Garden*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Lord is our refuge and strength: **O come, let us worship.**

Invitatory - Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*

**show us the light of his countenance and come to us.**

Let your ways be known upon earth, \*

**your saving health among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

**let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*

**for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

**let all the peoples praise you.**

The earth has brought forth her increase;

**may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

May God give us his blessing, \*

**and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

The Lord is our refuge and strength: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Genesis 28:10–19.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**[Moment of Silent Reflection on the Scriptures]**

Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*

**you know my sitting down and my rising up;**

**you discern my thoughts from afar.**

You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*

**and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*

**but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**

You press upon me behind and before \*

**and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*

**it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*

**where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*

**if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

If I take the wings of the morning \*

**and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

Even there your hand will lead me \*

**and your right hand hold me fast.**

If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, \*

**and the light around me turn to night.”**

Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; \*

**darkness and light to you are both alike.**

Search me out, O God, and know my heart; \*

**try me and know my restless thoughts.**

Look well whether there be any wickedness in me \*

**and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

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 for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:12–25.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**[Moment of Silent Reflection on the Scriptures]**

Hymn: God Whose Almighty Word (CP #560)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (13:24–30, 36–43). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be 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 and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

**[Moment of Silent Reflection on the Scriptures]**

Reflection Questions

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and all life, saying,

“Lord, hear our prayer.”

Merciful Lord, we pray for all who call themselves Christians: that we may become a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to the praise of Christ Jesus our Saviour. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Davidour archbishop, and for all bishops and other ministers: that they may remain faithful to their calling and rightly proclaim the word of truth. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Charles our King, for the leaders of the nations, and all in authority: that your people may lead quiet and peaceable lives.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the towns of Quispamsis, Rothesay, the surrounding regionand those who live here, the poor and the rich, the elderly and the young, men and women: that you will show your goodwill to all. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of our society and those who minister to them: that you will be their help and defence. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored: [**Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin. Take a moment to offer your own petitions and requests to the Lord.**] that the Lord will comfort and sustain them. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those preparing for baptism, for those recently baptized: that they may be strengthened in the faith. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints who have found favour in your sight from earliest times, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and those whose names are known to you alone: and we pray that we too may be counted among your faithful witnesses. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Collect

*Almighty God,*

*your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence.*

*Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,*

*one God, now and for ever.* ***Amen****.*

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: All Creatures Of Our God & King (MP #7)

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**