

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

**The Ninth Sunday After Pentecost** – July 30, 2023

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

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. *John 6.68*

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 29:15–28.

Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

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

Psalm 105:1–11, 45

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; \*

**make known his deeds among the peoples.**

Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*

**and speak of all his marvellous works.**

Glory in his holy name; \*

**let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

Search for the Lord and his strength; \*

**continually seek his face.**

Remember the marvels he has done, \*

**his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,**

O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*

**O children of Jacob his chosen.**

He is the Lord our God; \*

**his judgements prevail in all the world.**

He has always been mindful of his covenant, \*

**the promise he made for a thousand generations:**

The covenant he made with Abraham, \*

**the oath that he swore to Isaac,**

Which he established as a statute for Jacob, \*

**an everlasting covenant for Israel,**

Saying, “To you will I give the land of Canaan \*

**to be your allotted inheritance.”**

That they might keep his statutes \*

**and observe his laws. Hallelujah!**

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 8:26–39.

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. 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.

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

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

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

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

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

Song: *Your Love O Lord*

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

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.”

“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.

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

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

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

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 pray with confidence to the Lord, saying, “Lord hear our prayer.”

O Lord, guard and direct your Church in the way of unity, service, and praise.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Sustain with your lovingkindness all those who suffer this day, and those whom we have been asked to pray for: [**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.**] **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Set free all who are bound by fear and despair. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and

your comfort to those who mourn. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

**we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and all whom you have made.**

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;

**but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,

that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,

**not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Collect

*O God,*

*the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,*

*increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide,*

*we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal;*

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

*one God, for ever and 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: *The Kingdom of God*

Dismissal

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