

SEASON OF PENTECOST



JULY 16, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

*In the **First Reading** we read of a typical family. Parents have favorite children, and the children try to get something over on the other. St. Paul, in the **Second Reading**, talks about the lives portrayed in the First Reading as being lived according to **the flesh**, our sinful nature. That leads to death. Life lived according to the Spirit who raised Jesus from death, leads to life. Jesus, in the **Gospel**, tells the parable of the Sower and the abundant growth that comes.*

Today we welcome Paulina Lopez, Executive Director of the Duwamish River Community Coalition. The DRCC promotes environmental justice for the river and the land, and advocates for the health and wellbeing of the people and wildlife that call the Duwamish Valley their home. In addition to collaborating with other groups on the Duwamish River Superfund Site, the DRCC addresses climate change issues such as flooding; works for dignified employment and fair housing for residents; fosters the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps; and engages other partners in the Clean Air Program.

✦ GATHERING ✦

P – *Presider* C – *Congregation* L – *Lector* A – *Assisting Minister*
ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal*

PRELUDE

Jon Lackey

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

What Is This Place

ELW #524



1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the
2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win - dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be - comes a bod - y that lives
sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and speak
we are each oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive

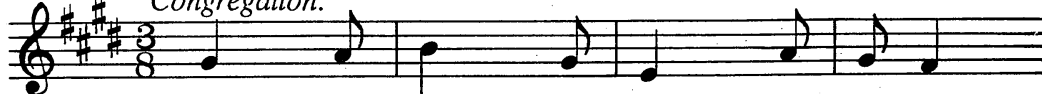


when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.
what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast

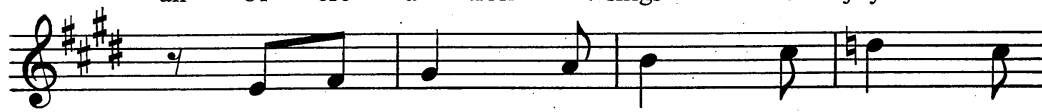
Congregation:



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,



all of cre - a - tion sings for joy



to the God of life and love and



free - dom: praise and glo - ry for - ev -

er - more!

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once

slain, whose blood has freed and u -

nit - ed us to be one great

to Refrain

peo - ple of God.

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and

might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

to Refrain

for - ev - er.

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us,

to make us peo - ple of God; to make

to Refrain

all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

PASS THE HAT

Duwamish River Community Coalition

Paulina Lopez

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Genesis 25:19-34

Kathleen Keyes

Although Jacob was younger than his twin Esau, he eventually takes the birthright away from his brother. Jacob is portrayed in the Bible as deceptive, gripping his brother when he came out of the womb and driving a hard bargain by buying the birthright for a bowl of lentils.

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²²The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

²⁴When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. ²⁶Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³²Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" ³³Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So Esau swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its slavery. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please rise in body or spirit to receive the gospel.*

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th Chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on

rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sarah Bliss

SERMON

Rev. Paul Winterstein

HYMN OF THE DAY

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW #679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heidi Eilers

A God of grace and compassion, you reached out to the whole world through your Son, so now we offer our prayers for that world you created and all the people and situations that need your care.

Petitions are offered that end with:

A Caring God,

C hear our prayer.

When all petitions have been offered:

P Your Son came into our world with all of its problems and lived your care for everyone whom he encountered. Knowing your concern, we entrust all of our prayers into your gracious keeping and ask you to respond in mercy.

C Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

P The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let us share a gesture of peace with our neighbors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure [Tithely Giving Page](#) via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you for your support!



OFFERTORY

As the Grains of Wheat

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be



gath-ered in-to one in you.



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, —
 2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of field and forest, sea and sky,

C **you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts!

C **We lift them to the Lord!**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and altender God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

YOU ARE HOLY

ELW #525



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck - et mer
 You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
 than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
 Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
 to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,

C **in the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.**

P When sin scarred the world,

C **you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.**

P So we give thanks that in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

C **Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

C **This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P Remembering, therefore his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,

C **we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**

P Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,

C **so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.**

P Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(ecumenical)*

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

C **Thanks be to God!**

DISTRIBUTION

We commune processionally. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are available in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God



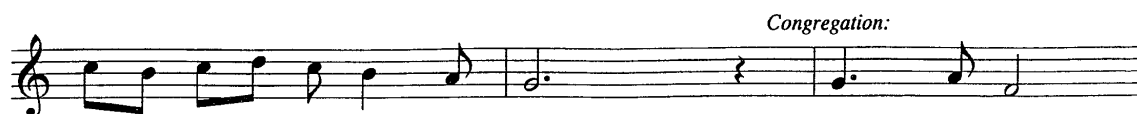
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
* you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and



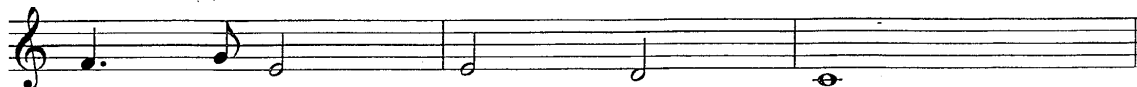
world:
fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
peace:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

ELW #492



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - diant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.
Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. We thank you generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C Amen.

+ SENDING +

SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW #547



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing, to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the harvest.


C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jon Lackey



CONTACT INFORMATION

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sabbatical Pastor	Rev. Paul Winterstein
Minister of Music	Jon Lackey
Liturgical Assistant	Heidi Eilers
Acolyte	Austin Simmons
Lector	Kathleen Keyes
Children's Message	Sarah Bliss
Greeters	Corinne Otakie, Ruth Eilers
Ushers	Scott Sunde, Barbara Hillier
Altar Care	Karl Coy
Communion Assistants	Karl Coy, Kathleen Keyes
Coffee Server	Heidi & Ruth Eilers
Counters	Kathleen Keyes, Audrey Zemke
Production Techs	Alex Wren, Paul Bliss

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Our mission goal for 2023 anticipates receiving offering income of \$25,819 each month.

Offering Income received JULY 2023

07/02/23	\$ 1,892.00
07/09/23	\$ 3,524.00
Electronic	\$ 2,755.70
Total	\$ 8,181.70

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community, and internationally through the ELCA

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

Today is **World Refill Day**, a global call for governments, corporations and other businesses to join the reuse and refill revolution and spur a transition to a plastic-free future. Do your part by refilling and reusing! Try buying your groceries like they did in the old days—by refilling instead of replacing. Get pasta, rice, oats, lentils – any food that's dry and has a relatively long shelf-life – where you can scoop your purchase into a reusable container and pay by the pound. Use fabric produce bags for your fruits and veggies. You can explore low-waste shopping at Public at 3836 California Ave. SW. Remember every piece of plastic you don't buy matters!

Pray for Creation: This week we give thanks for the ongoing commitment of the Duwamish River Community Coalition to the renewal and protection of the Duwamish River.

2ND QUARTER STATEMENTS READY FOR PICK UP

Second quarter giving statements are on a counter in the Narthex. Please help save a stamp and pick yours up. Statements have been mailed to those people who do not attend in person services regularly.

THE MOUNT IS HIRING

Providence Mount St. Vincent, affectionately known as “The Mount,” is a vibrant living care community for older adults and home to the Intergenerational Learning Center, an early childhood education program, in West Seattle. They are inviting those who are looking for faith-based work, to an [upcoming hiring event](#). **Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 9 am to 6 pm PDT at Providence Mount St. Vincent, 4831 35th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98126**

Hiring: Dishwashers, Cooks, Early Childhood Educators, Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), Registered Nurses (RNs)

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: Sick/Recovering: Kathy Anderson; Arlene; Beth; Heidi Coy; Vonda Cuchine; Marsha Davis; Sean Fenton; Marge Flint; Jack Garrison; Caity Gerhardt; Nathaniel Gibson; Dawn Gringorten; Signa Gustafson; Jaylin H.; Heather Jennings; Tony Jilek; Donna Kehle; Ken Keyes; Mike Larson; Noreen Lee; Dee Levy; Jan Madsen; Maya Marshall; Evelyn Martinez; Chloe McDonough; Eric, Erin, Finley McDonough; Pete McIntyre; Erin McPherson; Ken McPherson; Jenn Mersing; Steve Metzler; Jim Meyer; Bill Morrell; Nora; Marianne & Paul Paulos; Michelle Pierce; Elaine Ross; Jean Sides; Aaden Smith; Leon Smith; JoAnne Spangler; Kadi Sue Sprengle; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Annie Tigtig; Conrad Tollefson; Wade & Karin VanSant; Wendell & Wilson; Judy Wiggins; Inge Williams; Patti Wunder.

Homebound: Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Lee Lamson; Dorothy Linnell

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society. As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.



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