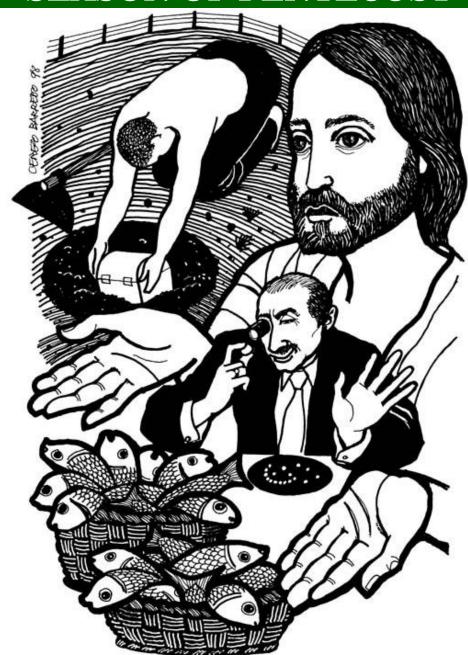
SEASON OF PENTECOST



JULY 30, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

In the **First Reading** for today, Jacob—whose name means deceiver/con artist—is deceived by his uncle, Laban, and is given Leah as a wife instead of Rachel. Jacob will work and yet get Rachel, but the marriage will be full of conflict. St. Paul, in the **Second Reading**, points to a God who is in no way deceptive, but whose love not even death can stop. Such valuable care is portrayed in the **Gospel** through a series of parables including the Pearl of Great Price, and the Treasure hidden in the field.

+ GATHERING +

 $\begin{array}{cccc} P-Presider & C-Congregation & L-Lector & A-Assisting\ Minister \\ & ELW-Evangelical\ Lutheran\ Worship\ Hymnal \end{array}$

PRELUDE Jon Lackey

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS At the font

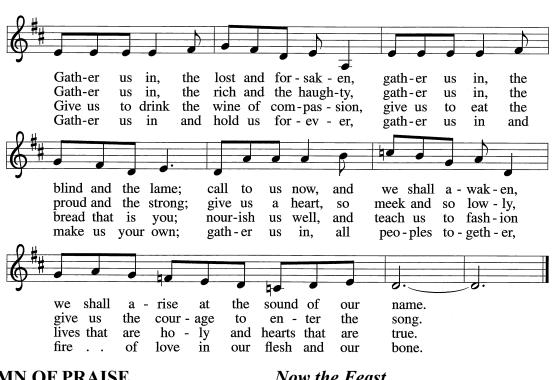
- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

 Silence is kept for reflection
- P Merciful God,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.
- P Righteous God,
- C we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

- P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.





HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast





PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. 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.
- C Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Genesis 29:15-28

Scott Sunde

Laban deceives Jacob by giving his older daughter, Leah, to Jacob in marriage instead of the promised younger daughter, Rachel. Because of his love for Rachel, Jacob agrees to work for Laban for an additional seven years so that he may also be married to her.

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" ¹⁶Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²²So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵When 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?" ²⁶Laban said, "This is not done in our country - giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." ²⁸Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

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. ²⁷And 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.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those

whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He 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? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

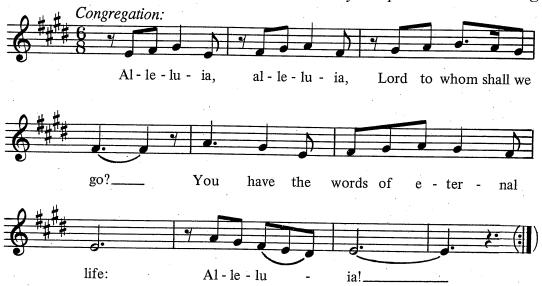
"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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



- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th Chapter
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

[Jesus] put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it 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."

³³He 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 someone found and hid; 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; ⁴⁶on 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; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and 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." ⁵²And 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord

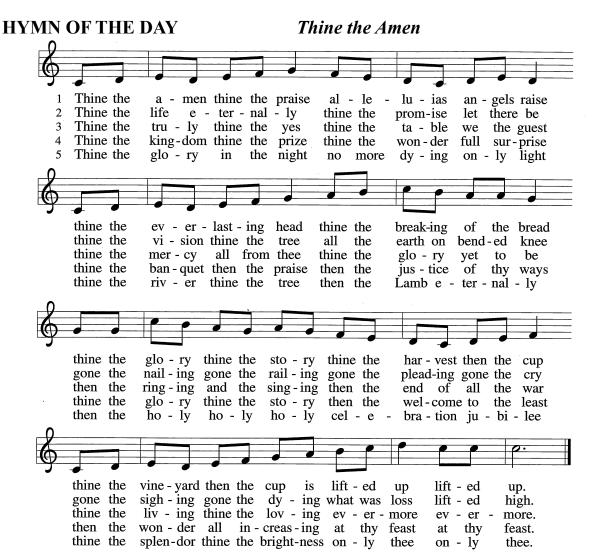
C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Melanie Coulson

ELW #826

SERMON Rev. Paul Winterstein



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Larry Cruse

A In the midst of a world where deception is a practiced art, God remains faithful and steadfast. So, we can come to this one solid anchor point with our prayers and concerns for the church, the world, and any in need.

Petitions are offered that end with:

- A Loving God,
- C hear our prayer.

When all petitions have been offered:

- P God, who works like a little yeast in a lot of flour, let the yeast of your gracious compassion permeate all those situations for which we pray, and may that yeast flow through each of us to join you in caring.
- C Amen.

+ MEAL +

THE PEACE

- P The peace of the risen Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

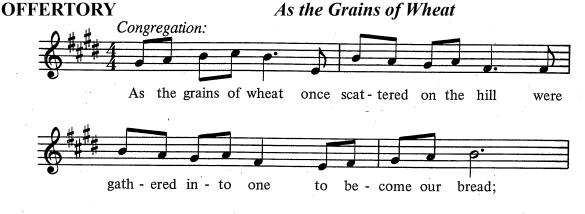
Let us share a gesture of peace with our neighbors.

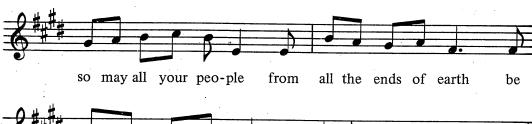
ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

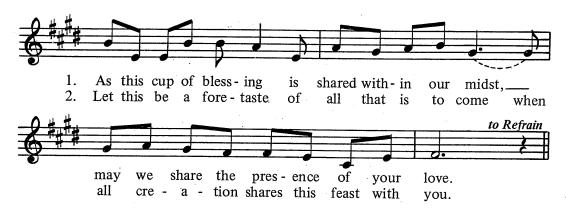
Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check,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









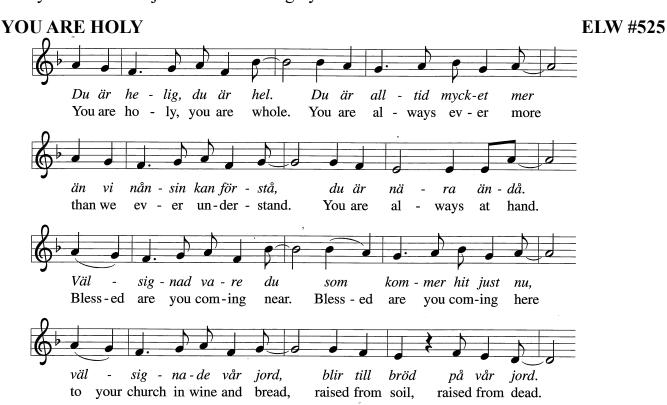


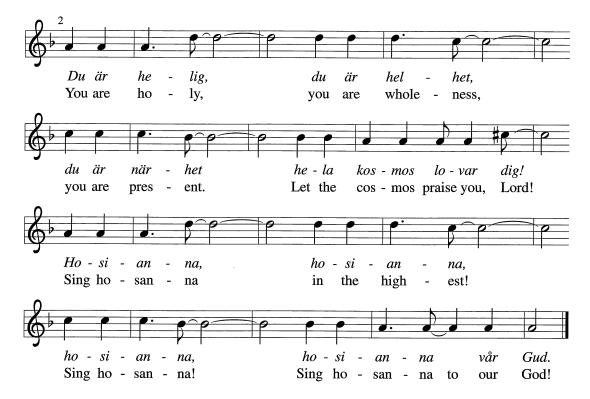
OFFERTORY PRAYER

- 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:





EUCHARISTIC 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.







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.

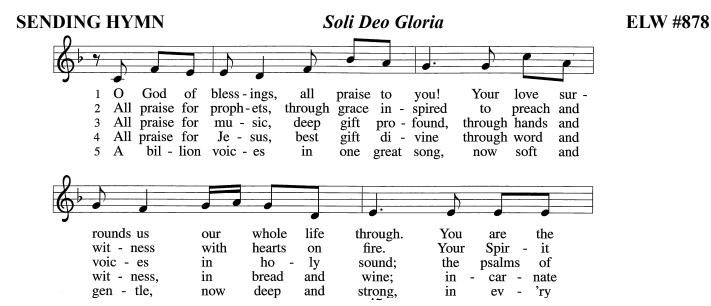
C Amen.

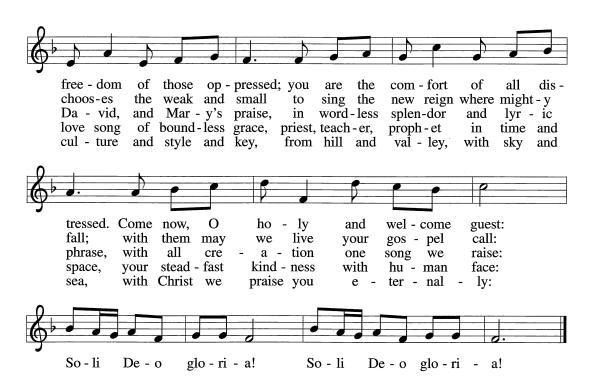
BLESSING

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.







DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Jon Lackey



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Minister of Music

Liturgical Assistant

Acolyte

Lector

Children's Message

Jon Lackey

Larry Cruse

Natalie Toso

Scott Sunde

Melanie Coulson

Greeters Corinne Otakie, Kathleen Keyes Ushers Janet Cruse, Barbara Hillier

Altar Care Marcia Olson, Boots Winterstein Communion Assistants Tyler & Elizabeth Menstell Coyle

Coffee Server WELCA

Counters Tyler Menstell Coyle, Erika Stephens

Production Techs Alex Wren, Alan Jarvimaki

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Offering Income received JULY 2023

Total	\$18,152,79
Electronic	\$ 8,836.79
07/23/23	\$ 1,880.00
07/16/23	\$ 2,010.00
07/09/23	\$ 3,534.00
07/02/23	\$ 1,892.00

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

With so little rain this summer, wet weather may be the last thing on your mind right now, but now is the *perfect* time to start planning for a rain garden so you can finish your digging by Sept. 30th and be ready for fall rains. The Department of Ecology has a free handbook with sample planting plans at https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/1310027.pdf. Plus, rebates for rain gardens are available through a program from Seattle Public Utilities and King County. Learn more at https://700milliongallons.org/rainwise/.

Pray for Creation: We pray for wisdom for our leaders as they deal with competing issues of existing dams, the diminishing number of Chinook salmon, and concerns for the threatened resident orcas.

FOOD FOR THE WELCOME TABLE

NEXT SUNDAY IS "FIRST SUNDAY": REMEMBER TO BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE WELCOME TABLE. Healthy snacks and lunch items especially appreciated during the summer when school meals are unavailable. Please bring them forward when you come to Communion and place items in the front pew. Thank you!

PASTOR PAUL'S LAST SUNDAY 7/30

This Sunday is Pastor Paul's last Sunday preaching while Pastor Erik is on sabbatical. There will be pie and ice cream after service during fellowship hour to give our thanks to all that Pastor Paul has done. Pastor Erik will be back in the office on 8/1/23.

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; Herb Shao; 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.

<u>Homebound</u>: Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Lee Lamson; Dorothy Linnell <u>PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST</u> 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.

PERMISSIONS

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