

***Sunday, July 26, 2020***

***Pentecost 8, Lectionary 17, Year A***

***GATHERING HYMN – Come now is the time to Worship***

**Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship.  
Come, just as you are before your God .  
Come.**

**One day every tongue  
will confess You are God.  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly serve You now.**

**Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time  
to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship.  
Come, just as you are before your God .  
Come.**

**Willingly we choose  
to surrender our lives.  
Willingly our knees will bow.  
With all our heart, soul,  
mind, and strength  
We gladly serve You now.**



**Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are to worship.  
Come, just as you are before your God.  
Come.**

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The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
The love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

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. **AMEN**

### ***FIRST READING - Genesis 29:15-28***

<sup>15</sup>Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” <sup>16</sup>Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup>Leah’s eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. <sup>18</sup>Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” <sup>19</sup>Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” <sup>20</sup>So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

<sup>21</sup>Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” <sup>22</sup>So Laban gathered together all the

people of the place, and made a feast. <sup>23</sup>But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. <sup>24</sup>(Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) <sup>25</sup>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?” <sup>26</sup>Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. <sup>27</sup>Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” <sup>28</sup>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.**

***SECOND READING - Romans 8:26-39***

<sup>26</sup>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. <sup>27</sup>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.

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

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us,



who is against us? <sup>32</sup>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? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

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

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

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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>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.”

<sup>33</sup>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.”

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in their joy they go and sell all that they have and buy that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>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 their treasure what is new and what is old.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

## **HOMILY**

**HYMN OF THE DAY – Gather Us In  
(ELW 532)**

Here in this place  
the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness  
vanished away;



see in this space  
our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you  
in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth,  
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth.)  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,  
give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion  
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

**Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

*Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950*

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### **THE PRAYERS**

Confident in God's care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a shrub that grows and gives shelter to birds; a woman baking bread; a net gathering fish. Help your church

witness to the surprising yet common ways that your reign takes shape in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our gratitude for your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers who help us to guard and care for it. Stir us up to live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the birds of the air nest in the branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. We remember especially these places and peoples we name before you now.... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, shelter to those with no home, justice to those who are oppressed, freedom to those who are in prison, and healing to all who are sick, especially those we name before you now.... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need; give us confidence in knowing that you will provide what we need. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You give courage and strength to all who live in fear. Be with those who are affected by COVID-19: those who are sick, those who grieve, those who live under lockdown or in fear, and all those who worry about an uncertain future. Give wisdom to those who make decisions about opening schools, churches, and economies, and help us all to trust in the healing that you give. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places; those who are living and those who now find their rest in you. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**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.**



***SENDING HYMN - Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881)***

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us,  
God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.**

**God rules all the forces:  
the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.**

**We too should be voicing  
our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

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## **BLESSING**

God the creator, who created the world, give you grace  
to be wise stewards of creation.

God the Son, who redeemed the world, inspire you  
to go out as labourers into the harvest of God.

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole creation,  
help you to bear the fruits of love, joy, and peace.

And the blessing of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among  
you  
and remain with you always.

## **Amen**

*(From "Let All Things Their Creator Bless": Liturgy for Use During the Season of  
Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford)*

Go in peace. Serve your neighbour; serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

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