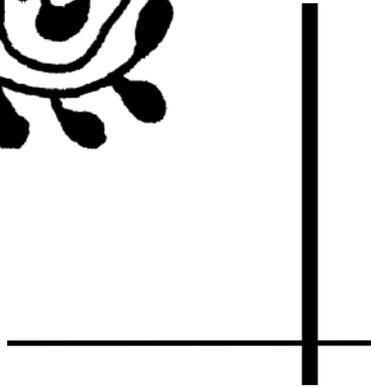
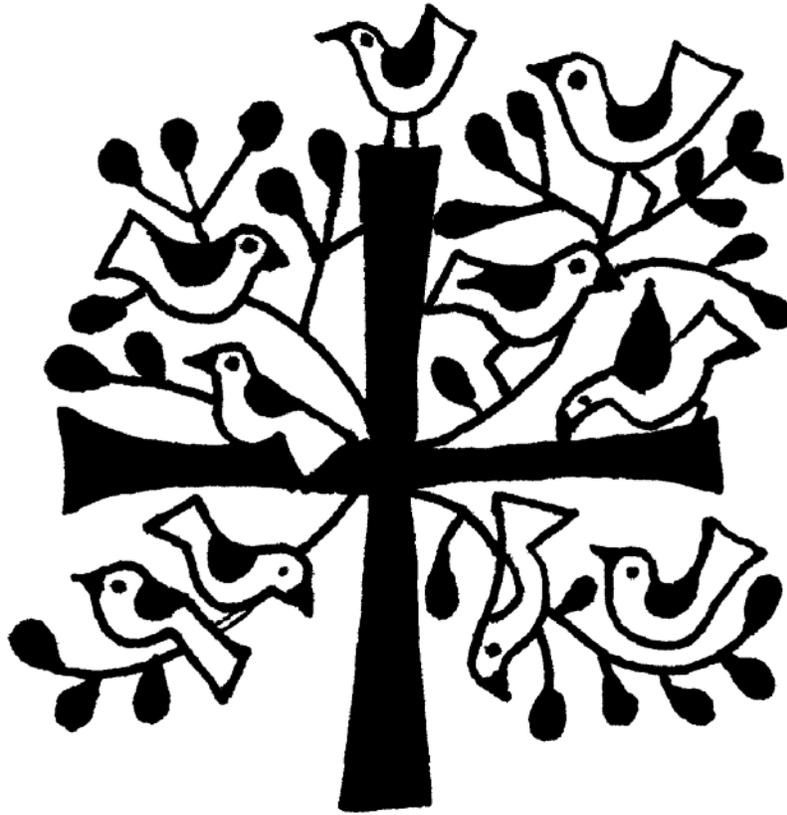


*Lectionary 17  
July 26, 2020*

***St. Timothy Lutheran Church***  
***Sharing God's Love Together***



**If you are a visitor with us today, we welcome you in the name of Christ.**  
*We encourage our guests to join us in the communion meal because Jesus welcomes all to his table of grace, uniting and filling us for love and service. Christ is our host and our food, bearing to us God's forgiveness and grace through this harvest of field and vineyard.*

LECTIONARY 17

JULY 26, 2020

*In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Reconciling God,

**All: we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✙ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*  
*(words on next page)*

#771

<p>1 God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place, flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space: we, your children in your likeness, share inventive pow'rs with you; great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.</p> <p>2 We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race; known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined pow'r, facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.</p> <p>As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew: children of creative purpose, serving others, hon'ring you. May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun; great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.</p>
---	----------	--

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God,

**All: 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.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S WORD

Pastor Clark Brown

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.*

Lector: A reading from Romans.

<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.

Lector: Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le

lu - ia!

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.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **All: 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 his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys 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 his treasure what is new and what is old."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Pastor Clark Brown

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Neither Death Nor Life*

#622 vs. 1, 3, 5

*Refrain*

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come,  
neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation  
can ever separate us from the love of God  
poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead;  
though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise  
through the Spirit who brings you to life. *Refrain*

3 All of the suffering we now must endure  
is nothing to the glory so soon to be revealed  
when creation itself is set free. *Refrain*

5 Who can separate us from the love of Christ?  
Will hardship or distress, persecution or famine,  
or nakedness or peril or sword? *Refrain*

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your 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 mustard shrub, a woman  
baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common  
ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding  
and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the  
earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

As the birds of the air nest in 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. (*Here a particular world struggle may be  
named.*) 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, refuge to the  
weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick *especially* Dawn,  
Helen, Josh, Cynthia, the family and friends of Judy Andreasen, the family and friends  
of Tony Pires, and those that we now name silently or aloud... (*pause*). . Lord, in your  
mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this  
congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being  
your people in this place and time. 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. 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. **Amen.**

## MEAL

*Please stand*

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

*You are welcome to share the peace using the comment section on YouTube or with anyone sheltering in peace with you.*

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

*Let us remember to offer ourselves—our time, our abilities, our possessions—for the ongoing ministry of St. Timothy and the wider church. You may continue to send in your offering by postal mail or use our online giving option at [www.sttim.org](http://www.sttim.org).*

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God of goodness and growth,

**All: all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.**

**Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed... ....Do this for the remembrance of me.

**All: Amen**

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit with God's people of every time and every place, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

*or* **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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

Pastor: Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

*As we share communion in our homes, we remember that we are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, sharing in communion with the saints of every time and place. We receive the body and blood of Christ and share in the life of God as we accept the bread and wine or grape juice, and hear the words: “The body of Christ given for you” and “the blood of Christ shed for you.”*

*Lamb of God*

1.2.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have

mer - cy on us. world:

grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**All: Amen**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.  
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**All: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

#547

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Sent forth by God's blessing,<br/>our true faith confessing,<br/>the people of God from this dwelling<br/>take leave.<br/>The supper is ended.<br/>Oh, now be extended<br/>the fruits of this service in all who<br/>believe.<br/>The seed of Christ's teaching,<br/>receptive souls reaching,<br/>shall blossom in action for God and for<br/>all.<br/>Your grace shall incite us,<br/>your love shall unite us<br/>to work for your kingdom and answer<br/>your call.</p> | <p>2 With praise and thanksgiving<br/>to God ever-living,<br/>the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will<br/>face—<br/>our faith ever sharing,<br/>in love ever caring,<br/>embracing God's children, the whole<br/>human race.<br/>With your feast you feed us,<br/>with your light now lead us;<br/>unite us as one in this life that we<br/>share.<br/>Then may all the living<br/>with praise and thanksgiving<br/>give honor to Christ and his name that<br/>we bear.</p> |
|--|--|

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

<p><b>Presiding Minister</b>—Pastor Clark Brown <b>Assisting Minister</b>—Ida Barber <b>Musician</b>—Desma Johnson <b>Cantors</b>—Ida and Tom Barber <b>Altar Care</b>—Susan Smith</p>
--

## Upcoming Commemorations

**Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians**

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020**

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.

**Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany**

**Wednesday, July 29, 2020**

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him.

Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

**Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030**  
**Wednesday, July 29, 2020**

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.

**Gospel Message**  
**Lectionary 17: July 26, 2020**  
**The Divine Ordinary**

As we make our way through Matthew's gospel, we often hear Jesus say, "The kingdom of heaven is like . . ." He uses everyday items and experiences to give us a glimpse of God's realm. Today as you stand for the reading of the gospel, God will use the voice of someone you know (your pastor, perhaps) to proclaim some comparisons Jesus made to the kingdom of heaven: a mustard seed, yeast, a merchant in search of fine pearls.

Our Lord says the kingdom of heaven is like things we already know and understand. It's like someone giving a wedding banquet (Matt. 22:2), a fishing net (Matt. 13:47), a gardener sowing seeds (Matt. 13:3). Instead of saying the kingdom is divine and far beyond our understanding, Jesus offers stories of ordinary things, pointing to how God's will is revealed in them.

Look around your worship space before the service. Whom or what has God brought you today that is like the kingdom of heaven? Is a retired man teaching a middle-schooler how to carry the top-heavy cross down the aisle? Are there people who use walkers alongside young ones who skip everywhere they go? Perhaps a newly widowed woman has new seatmates who don't want her sitting alone. Did someone bring a gluten-free dish to the potluck even though he is not gluten-sensitive?

Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to ordinary things because we live most often in ordinary moments and spaces. Again and again, he invites us to find the divine in the day-to-day, to glimpse the eternal in the temporal, and to recognize God's image in a stranger's face.

As worship begins, let yourself notice the altogether ordinary things God is using to reveal the kingdom in this place: human voices, handshakes and hugs, music, musicians, books, water, wine, bread. In the coming week, what might God use to reveal the kingdom in your home, your workplace, your school, or other spaces you inhabit?

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## ***Prayer Concerns***

*Please remember in your prayers:*

**Cynthia Halman**, Carolyn's sister, whose son was killed in an automobile accident.

**Helen Leikam**, June's sister-in-law, diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer.

**Josh Bathit**, grandnephew of Steve Solomon, who has undergone surgery for a brain tumor.

**The family and friends of Judy Andreasen**, Steve Solomon's sister.

**The family and friends of Tony Pires** (brother of John and brother-in-law of Lucille).

**Dawn Stallings**, daughter of Dolores, who has suffered a stroke.

**Katie and Matt Logan**, as Katie has been laid off from work.

**The family and friends of Joe Vargo** (husband of Thompson Lange).

**Mark Northcutt**, healing from heart and kidney transplants and ongoing complications.

**Grant Hobson**, grandnephew of Matt Schulz, being treated for leukemia, and his parents Claire and Luke.

**Jeannie Kaffenburger**, caregiver for her husband, John, with Alzheimer's disease.

**All service members, fire fighters, and police officers (and their families).**

**For those living in war-torn regions and all refugees.**

**For the mission of this congregation, the Monterey Bay Conference, and the entire Sierra Pacific Synod, and for our leaders and for the leaders throughout the world.**

*Please continue to pray for the ongoing concerns of these listed here.*

**Torie Hamilton**

**Rodger Marty**

**Bonnie Bennett**

**Jim McMullins**

**Bill Reynolds**

**Mary Lee Slater**

**Marjorie Gabriel**

**Tom Brown**

**Aaron Grieg**

**Byron Heppert**

**Jacqueline Graham**

**Gloria Llenaresas**

**Riley Ann Holland**

**Ronnie Lyons**

**Irene McCloud**

**Thomas Ansley**

**Jackie Rullman**

**Linda Henderson**

**Beverly Schneideman**

**Justice Gaudoin**

**Peter Kracht**

**Isabella Silva**

**Randy Hoch**

**Don Butler**

***Please let the office know if we should remove any of the above people from our prayer list. Thank you!***

From Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Liturgy: *Do this in remembrance of me*, David Haas, © 2001 GIA Publications.

*God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*, Text: Catherine Cameron, © 1967 Hope Publishing Company.

*Neither Death Nor Life*, Text: Marty Haugen, © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*, Text: Omer Westendorf © 1964 World Library Publications.

All Elements are Used by Permission. All Rights Reserved.

Augsburg License #23225 • CCLI License #2883346 • LicenSing License #604049 • OneLicense License #A-706342

# **Saint Timothy Lutheran Church, ELCA**

52 Soledad Drive, Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 375-2042

home page: <http://sttim.org>

E-mail: [office@sttim.org](mailto:office@sttim.org)

***Sharing God's Love Together***

July 26, 2020

## Notes and announcements

- **Online Worship:** All services are posted online to YouTube. If you have internet access, our YouTube Channel is at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHP8hutt19neqHHHpbQPcDA> Worship “premieres” at 10am each Sunday, but is available after that also. You can subscribe to our channel which makes finding us easier.
- **Social Hour:** We have a social hour following on Zoom at 10:30am. Information for worship and the social hour will be emailed each week. **If you want to be on our email list or have questions**, email/call/text Pastor Clark at [pastorclark@sttim.org](mailto:pastorclark@sttim.org) or 831-521-1818.
- **Preparing for communion.** Our online Sunday worship will include communion. As you feel called, prepare to share in communion by setting aside some bread or crackers, and some wine or juice, as you have them available. If you need any of these items, please contact Ida Barber and we will arrange a safe drop off of the elements.
- **Prayer Concerns:** Please call Dorothy Kirk with any new or changed prayer concerns at 375-1043.
- **Shopping etc.:** Do you need help with shopping or other needs? Please contact Pastor Clark at 831-521-1818 or at his home 925-960-1468. We do have volunteers who are happy to help and if you would like to help, let me know.
- **Study and discuss online:** Pastor Clark and Pastor Tony are collaborating on opportunities to gather online: Wednesday Bible Study, and Sunday pastors’ class. The Tuesday Evening (6:30pm) Class will begin discussing the book “Dear Church” by Lenny Duncan this week. Email Pastor Clark for info: [pastorclark@sttim.org](mailto:pastorclark@sttim.org).
- **Hymnals:** Would you like to borrow a hymnal while we are “sheltering in peace?” Please contact the office and we will make arrangements.
- **Offering:** Please remember your offerings to St. Timothy as our expenses continue and we experience loss of income from outside groups. Offering can be mailed to the church office, sent automatically using your bank, or online by visiting our website [www.sttim.org](http://www.sttim.org).