

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Old Testament Reading: *Jeremiah 23:16–29*

Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’” For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened? Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly. “I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds. “Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, ‘I have dreamed, I have dreamed!’ How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

Epistle: *Acts 20:27–38*

[Paul said:] “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained

with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Holy Gospel: *Matthew 7:15–23*

[Jesus said:] “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

✠ ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

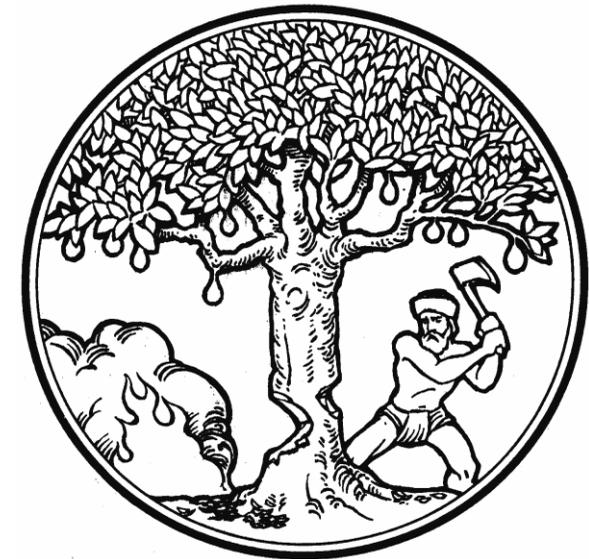
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✠ Beware of False Prophets ✠

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matt. 7:15). Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord (Jer. 23:16–29). They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. “You will recognize them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:20). The “fruits” of a true prophet are not outward righteousness or success but faithfulness in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. This is the will of the Father in heaven, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father's adopted ones (Rom. 8:12–17), warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:27–38). For indeed, the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit—namely, the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

July 29 & Aug 2, Year of Our ✠ Lord 2020

COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT: Communion is offered today for those who: (1) repent of their sins, (2) believe in Jesus as their Savior, (3) believe that with the bread and the wine Christ gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, and (4) desire to amend their sinful ways with the help of the Holy Spirit. We also believe that Holy Communion is a fellowship meal with those of the same confession of faith: therefore, we ask that those **NOT** of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the American Association of Lutheran Churches, or Lutheran Church Canada **please speak with the Pastor before communing.**

Introit *(Sing to the Tune of C)*

**☩ We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,
in the midst of your | temple.**

**As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends | of
the earth.**

Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.

**Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised
in the city of our God, his holy | mountain.**

Within her | citadels

God has made himself known as a | fortress.

Let Mount Zion | be glad!

**Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your |
judgments!**

This is God, our God forever and | ever.

He will guide us for- | ever.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

as it was in the be- | ginning,

is now, and ever shall be, world without end. | Amen.

**We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,
in the midst of your | temple.**

**As your name, O God, so your praise reaches to the ends | of
the earth.**

Your right hand is filled with | righteousness.

Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P For all baptized believers, that they would think on the steadfast love of God and praise Him for the salvation they have through Jesus Christ, which they receive via His Holy Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:

☩ Lord, have mercy.

P For the Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of all false prophets and pretend believers, that they would be led to repentance and faith, let us pray to the Lord:

☩ Lord, have mercy.

P For all life from the womb to the grave, that it would be cherished and protected, let us pray to the Lord:

☩ Lord, have mercy.

P For humility among the faithful, that they would interact with the world as sinners who have been redeemed by Christ the crucified, not out of pride or arrogance, let us pray to the Lord:

☩ Lord, have mercy.

P For those who have been placed in authority over us, that they would steer clear of self-promotion and focus on the common welfare of all, let us pray to the Lord:

☩ Lord, have mercy.

P For those who have been placed in authority over us, that they would steer clear of self-promotion and focus on the common welfare of all, let us pray to the Lord:

☩ Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

☩ Amen.

Divine Service

Setting One



Preparation

Pastor's Welcome

Announcements

Hymn of Invocation #578

Invocation/Absolution p.151

Word

Introit *Bulletin*

Kyrie/Gloria in Excelsis p.152

Collect of the Day p.156

Old Testament *Reverse*

Epistle *Reverse*

Alleluia P. 156

Holy Gospel *Reverse*

Hymn of the Day #595

Sermon

Apostles' Creed p.159

Prayers *Bulletin*

Offering *(In back of the Sanctuary)*

Offertory #781 (v 1, 2)

Sacrament

Communion Announcement

Preface p.160

Distribution #636, #617, #628,
#629, #619

Thank the Lord p.164

Departing Hymn #643