



# Voices Not Always Heard: Voices of the Captives

*(Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)*

**August 3, 2025**

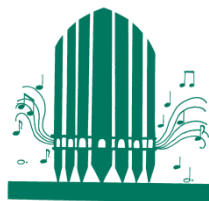
**9:30 AM**

*(You are welcome to share a prayer request to be used in worship today.  
Prayer Cards will be collected during the Sermon Song.)*

## **GATHERING**

*(A time of silence to let go of daily worries and refocus on worshipping God)*

**PRELUDE** *(and lighting of the altar candles)*



## **CALL TO WORSHIP** *(based on Matthew 11:28-30)*

Leader: People of God—

**All: come and worship!**

Leader: Even if you're tired and worn out—

**All: come and worship!**

Leader: Lay down the heavy things you are carrying—

**All: come and worship!**

Leader: Listen to what Jesus wants to tell you—

**All: come and worship!**

Leader: See if you can discover how Jesus wants to use you—

**All: come and worship!**

Leader: For Jesus is humble and gentle,

**All: and he will give us everything we need to follow him.**

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT PRAYER**

Leader: Lord God,

O Loving Creator, we acknowledge this traditional home of the Duwamish and Muckleshoot peoples on which we live and worship today. We give thanks for their stewardship of this land over centuries. We ask for your guidance in our efforts to care for this place, and to honor the First Peoples' legacy with humility, respect and responsibility.

**Response: Amen**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: Let us pray.

Heavenly GOD,

I lift up to you all prisoners who are facing immense challenges and hardships.

Grant them strength and courage to endure their time of incarceration.

Help them to stay resilient in the face of adversity

and know that you are always by their side.

**All: Amen.**



*Refrain sung by All:*

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9

Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen

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*Verses sung by Leaders:*

Verse 1:

This is the fast that God would choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to let the captives go free,  
and to break the yoke of oppression.

*Refrain sung by All*

Verse 2:

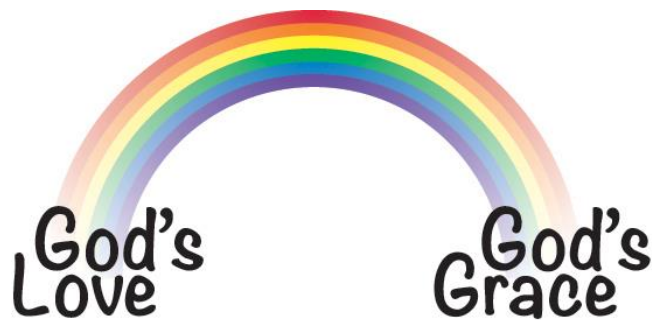
Sharing your bread with the hungry  
and welcoming homeless in,  
offering hope and offering help,  
this is what God requires.

*Refrain sung by All*

Verse 3:

Then shall your light break forth as dawn,  
and healing shall come to you quickly;  
then you shall call and God shall answer,  
God's love shall go before you.

*Refrain sung by All*



## CONFESSION

Leader: Whenever self obscures the needs of others,

**All: forgive us.**

Leader: Whenever we forget who is our neighbor,

**All: forgive us.**

Leader: Whenever we pass by on the other side,

**All: forgive us.**

Leader: Whenever we forget to say 'Well done!

**All: forgive us.**

Leader: Whenever we forget to simply give thanks,

**All: forgive us.**

Leader: Whenever we forget the path that we tread,

**All: forgive us.**

Leader: For all those times we bring a tear to your eye,  
bring us back into your forgiving arms  
and teach us once again, your way.

**Response: Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: We are forgetful people of God.

But, we are forgiven even before our confession reaches your holy ears.

The Holy Spirit is always here to guide us and

remind us that all people are God's children.

**Response: Amen.**



## THE WORD

### THE FIRST READING **Isaiah 58:1-8** (*Inclusive Bible Translation*)

Reader: Our readings are from the **Inclusive Bible** translation, and the first reading today is from the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah:

<sup>1</sup> "Shout for all you are worth,  
raise your voice like a trumpet!

Proclaim to the people their faults,  
tell the house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob their sins!

Reader:           <sup>2</sup> They seek me daily,  
                           they long to know my ways,  
 like a nation that wants to act with integrity  
                           and not ignore the Law of its God.  
 They ask me for laws that are just,  
                           they long for God to draw near.  
<sup>3</sup> Yet they say, ‘Why should we fast  
                           if you never see it?  
 Why do penance  
                           if you never notice?’  
 Because when you fast, it’s business as usual,  
                           and you oppress all your workers!  
<sup>4</sup> Because when you fast, you quarrel and fight  
                           and strike the poor with your fist!  
 Fasting like yours today  
                           will never make your voice heard on high!  
<sup>5</sup> Is that the sort of fast that pleases me—  
                           a day when people humiliate themselves,  
 hanging their heads like a reed,  
                           lying down on sackcloth and ashes?  
 Is that what you call fasting,  
                           a day acceptable to YHWH?  
<sup>6</sup> On the contrary!  
 This is the sort of fast that pleases me:  
                           Remove the chains of injustice!  
                           Undo the ropes of the yoke!  
 Let those who are oppressed go free,  
                           and break every yoke you encounter!  
<sup>7</sup> Share your bread with those who are hungry,  
                           and shelter homeless poor people!  
 Clothe those who are naked,  
                           and don’t hide from the needs of your own flesh and blood!  
<sup>8</sup> Do this, and your light will shine like the dawn—  
                           and your healing will break forth like lightning!  
 Your integrity will go before you,  
                           and the glory of YHWH will be your rearguard.

Word of God, word of life.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**THE GOSPEL READING Luke 4: 16-19** *(Inclusive Bible Translation)*

Reader:       And our Gospel reading today is from the fourth chapter of Luke:

**Response: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. Entering the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his habit, Jesus stood up to do the reading. <sup>17</sup> When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

Reader:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of our God is upon me:  
because the Most High has anointed me  
to bring Good News to those who are poor.  
God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive,  
recovery of sight to those who are blind,  
and release to those in prison—  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of our God's favor."

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, O Christ.

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



### SERMON

### Voices of the Captives

Pastor Tormod Svensson



### SERMON HYMN

### When Our World Is Rent by Violence

ACS 1052



1 When our world is rent by vio-lence and our lives are  
2 When our cit - ies stand for - sak - en and the poor must  
3 When our lives are burnt to ash - es and our hopes fade  
4 Raise up beau - ty from the ash - es; end our vio - lence;



marred by grief, when our songs of calm as - sur - ance  
beg for bread, when the pris - 'ner sits for - got - ten  
like a dream, when our sto - ries lose their mean - ing  
tend our peace. Give us vi - sions of a fu - ture

turn to cries of un - be - lief: God, we raise our  
and the home - less find no bed, God, we raise our  
and de - spair be - comes their theme, God, we raise our  
where all cap - tives find re - lease, where op - pres - sion

lam - en - ta - tion seek - ing ref - uge and re - lief.  
lam - en - ta - tion: wak - en jus - tice from the dead!  
lam - en - ta - tion: Come, Lord Je - sus, to re - deem!  
is e - vic - ted, and all works of ha - tred cease.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984  
Music: FORTUNATUS NEW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929  
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## DECLARATION OF FAITH *(inspired by Mark 1:14-20, Matthew 4:18-22)*

Leader: We declare our faith:

**All: I believe in an innovative God,  
who does not wait for us to find ourselves  
but comes seeking the lost and calling us into a new way.**

**I believe in Jesus of Nazareth as God’s crucial initiative,  
that when he calls us to follow, Christ also gives us the power to become,  
both in creed and deed, the children of the living God.**

**I believe in the Spirit by whom Jesus still comes to us,  
calling us to follow him into an obedience which is true liberty  
and to a humble service which is the fruit of holy friendship.**

**I believe in the church as the fellowship of Christ’s people,  
called to respect and support one another through joys and tribulations  
as we travel the road towards the “promised land” of God’s future.**

**Because Christ has called me  
in this I truly believe.**

**Amen.**

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Leader: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*(silence for reflection)*

Leader: God of Compassion,  
We lift up to you all captives who have lost hope and faith. We pray that you will ignite a spark within their hearts and renew their hope and determination for a future filled with possibilities.  
God of grace,

**Response: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone.  
God of grace,

**Response: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet.  
God of grace,

**Response: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace.  
God of grace,

**Response: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and brokenness, pain and fear, and all others who suffer in any way – in their body, mind, or spirit. Hold them in your loving arms and give them the needed strength and courage to cope with their difficulties. Guide and sustain those who are tending to their needs, equipping them with compassion as they make your love known through their words and actions. And give support and comfort to their families and friends through these trying times.  
God of grace,

**Response: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of their toil that often goes unnoticed.  
God of grace,

**Response: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. Confident in the promise of the resurrection, we wait with anticipation and certainty that we will be reunited with them again at your heavenly banquet. Until that time, comfort those who are mourning the physical loss of their loved ones, including the family and friends of .... Be with them as they struggle to find a path through their grief back to joy.  
God of grace,

**Response: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Listen now to the prayers of your people, spoken aloud or silently...

*(pause for personal prayers)*

*(special congregational prayers are lifted up)*



*A more complete list of all whom the congregation is praying for this week is in the announcement insert in your bulletin.*

God of grace,

**Response: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayers and hopes in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

## MEAL



*(Note: Receptacles for your offerings are available on stools at the front on either side of the center aisle as you come forward for communion)*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Our offering prayer:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**All: Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:  
our selves, our time, and our possessions.**

**Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love,  
through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

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

## LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: We join in the prayer Jesus taught us to pray.

All: Our [Father | Mother | Heavenly Parent | Creator] 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.



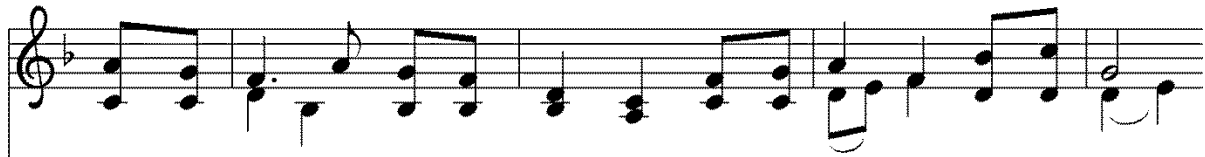
## ABOUT COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. Please wait in your pew until the usher indicates that it is your turn, then come forward using the center aisle. You may choose either the rail side or the side where there is no rail. If you and/or your children are not comfortable participating in the Rite of Communion, **know that all are still welcome to come forward for a blessing – just let the presider know your preference when you and/or your children are in front of the first Chancel step.** When you are at the front, please fill in a vacant spot. **If you would like a gluten free alternative to the bread, or if you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please indicate that to the presider.** After you have communed, please discard the empty cup to be recycled in the trash can by the side wall before returning to your seat.*

## COMMUNION INVITATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Leader: The kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.





1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.  
 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.  
 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



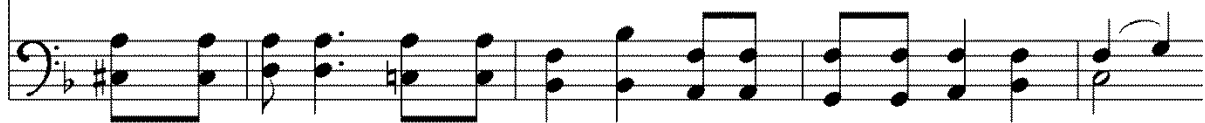
For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
 Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
 In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



*Refrain*



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.



Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952  
 Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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*(when all in the sanctuary have been fed)*

Pastor: Those joining us online – pick up your bread and hear these words:

*This is the body of Christ given for you.*

Eat and receive saying, "Amen."

Lift up your cup of wine or juice and hear these words:

*This is the blood of Christ shed for you.*

Drink and receive saying, "Amen."

## COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Response: Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Leader: May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy,  
Go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness.

May the Son who teaches us to care for strangers and foreigners,  
Go with us as we try to be good neighbors in our communities.

May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers and celebrates community,  
Go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.

Response: Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

### *Let Streams of Living Justice*

ELW 710



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn-ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an-cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo-ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934  
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## WE GO

**Pastor:** Let us go now, to follow Jesus, to serve our neighbor,  
to stand with the oppressed, to proclaim and live God's grace,  
and to share God's peace with one another and our world!

**Response:** **Thanks be to God!**

*(As we pass the peace, **ALL** people have the right to choose  
if they would like a verbal greeting, a handshake, or a hug.)*

## POSTLUDE







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Resources: All bible texts are from the Inclusive Bible by Priests for Equality, Publisher Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, copy privileges granted by eBooks.com

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Call to Worship ~ written by Christine Longhurst, re: Worship, modified for inclusivity –

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/06/intergenerational-call-to-worship-matt.html>

Prayer of the Day ~ written by Fr. Dan Hartnett S.J. From Jesuitresource.org, <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/immigrants-and-refugees>

Confession ~ written by John Birch, and posted on **Faith and Worship**. <http://www.faithandworship.com/>

Assurance of Pardon ~ written by Rhonda Gleason

Declaration of Faith ~ written by Bruce Prewer, on [Bruce Prewer's Homepage](http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocB/BEIPHANY3.htm) --

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocB/BEIPHANY3.htm>

Closing Benediction ~ attributed to Clare McBeath and Tim Presswood

Special Clip Art:

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People Behind Bars ~ from <https://img.clipart-library.com/24/c6f87ef9-7d48-4f38-9f15-2a70529fd279.png>

Praying Hands ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/516920.htm>

Come to the Table ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/702688.htm>

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## ***KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH***

*lives and celebrates the accepting love of Christ*

### **CORE VALUES**

We affirm the following values:

- \* We value the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus;
- \* We value God's love as a gift to be shared with everyone;
- \* We value everyone as a child of God, and invite all to be embraced by God;
- \* We value providing a loving, caring environment supporting spiritual needs;
- \* We value that all people are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God and community.
- \* We value the participation of people of all ages, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, educational background, different abilities, and economic conditions.

### **OUR VISION**

**Kent Lutheran Church**, a Christ-centered, sacred place  
for spiritual, cultural, and community enrichment.

**Kent Lutheran Church** is an **RIC (Reconciling in Christ)** congregation.

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Visit us on Facebook: Kent Lutheran Church, Kent Lutheran Youth, KLC South Sudan

Other KLC related web sites: [www.KentGrandOrgan.org](http://www.KentGrandOrgan.org), [www.klcsouthsudan.blogspot.com](http://www.klcsouthsudan.blogspot.com)

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