



July 25, 2021
9th Sunday of Pentecost



Worship Participants

Preaching Today: Pastor Lamont Koerner
Assisting Minister: Pastor Meredith McGrath
Organist/Pianist: Brian Voss

The things we value most have a way of shifting don't they? The things we believe we can't live without are different at age 7, 14, 42 or 63. Age, circumstance, experience can alter our views of what we see as of highest value. Our perspectives change. Today we hear the parable of the pearl of great price. We are invited to climb up, to get a bird's eye view of the parable, of our lives. Is there something so valuable to you, you would be willing to give up everything else?

Prelude

Welcome

Ringing of the Bells

Hymn: *Jesus, Priceless Treasure, verses 1 & 3 (original text) [ELW 775]*

V1: Jesus, priceless Treasure,
Source of purest pleasure,
Truest friend to me.
Long my heart hath panted,
Till it almost fainted,
Thirsting after Thee.
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb,
I will suffer naught to hide Thee,
Ask for naught beside Thee.

V3: Satan, I defy thee;
Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me
While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r guards every hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him,
Silent bow before Him.

Greeting

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

God of wonders, give us fresh eyes to better see you. Help us put aside our fears and hesitations, that we may care for ALL our neighbors. You are the source of light, wisdom, and life for the world. We aspire to be compassionate like you. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

Reading: Psalm 119:129-135

Gospel: Matthew 13:45-46

Sermon

Hymn: *I've Found the Pearl of Greatest Price, verses 1, 6, & 9 (author John Mason, sung to tune 'Martyrdom')*

V1: I've found the pearl of greatest price,
My heart doth sing for joy:
And sing I must, a Christ I have;
O what a Christ have I?

V6: My Christ, he is the Tree of Life,
Which in God's garden grows;
Whose fruit does feed, whose leaves do heal;
My Christ is Sharon's rose.

V9: My Christ, he is the Heaven of heavens,
My Christ what shall I call?
My Christ is first, my Christ is last,
My Christ is all in all.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of wonders, we are grateful for the trees you give us to climb. Help us to climb farther into your stories: seeing you more fully, breathing more peacefully, sharing ourselves more completely. To you we gladly offer ourselves; our work, our rest, our resources, and our love. In your blessed name we pray, Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Blessing and Sending

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. Amen.

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude