

GATHERING HYMN: “*All Earth Is Hopeful*” (verses 1,2&3).....# 266

APOSTOLIC 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.**

MORNING PRAYER

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live hoping for Your kingdom on Earth as it is in heaven, and help us be rooted in the Way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 44:6 –8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one. Word of God Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 86: 11-17

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.

For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant.

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and repent; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:13-25

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who

hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Word of God Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “*CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD*”#801

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

Glory to you, O Lord. [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON “We Long for Justice and for Peace” Pastor Stahlberg

HYMN OF THE DAY “*To Be Your Presence*”# 546

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe God, a divine presence, gentle and loving, the ground of our being. We believe Jesus, who embodied the love of God, and who urged his followers to express that same love in their daily lives. We believe the Holy Spirit, as God’s continuing presence in our world, surrounding us with compassion. We believe the church is the Body of Christ where people gather to praise and learn about Christ, to share our concern for one another, and to bring justice and healing to all of God’s Creation. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation... Hear us, O God **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of all creation, you are the giver of all good things. Help us see and appreciate the beauty of each day, become aware of the abundant gifts you gave us and teach us to share them,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ who gave his life for the sake of the whole world and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ONE GOD!

THE LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS: “*O Living Bread from Heaven*” # 542
“*Come, Let Us Eat*” # 491

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING HYMN “*Go My Children, with My Blessing*” 543

BLESSING

The God of the Universe , who took flesh and came among us, † bless you, keep you safe and healthy, filled with joy and compassion. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and follow the WAY of Jesus. **Thanks be to God. We will.**

SONG OF PEACE (*You may join hands.*)

My peace I give unto you. It’s a peace that the world cannot give. It’s a peace that the world cannot understand. Peace to know, peace to live. My peace I give unto you.