

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

The First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136

129 Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130 When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.

133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.

The Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

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. 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.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 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. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 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? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that 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 our Lord.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 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."

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."

"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.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." 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."

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Claire Renzetti & Brad Tidwell in celebration of Barbara Tidwell's birthday

Announcements

Birthdays this month

4th: David Buckner
 10th: Claire Cammack
 11th: Harrison Brown
 12th: Gary Miller
 19th: Sandra McLaughlin
 22nd: Christopher Clodfelter
 29th: Kathleen Millican
 31st: Lauren Hale

This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, August 6, 2023

9:00 am Bible Study
 10:00am Holy Eucharist
 Blessing of the Backpacks

Blessing of the Backpacks

NEXT Sunday, August 6th, we invite all students, teachers, and educators to bring their backpacks and workbags as we ask God's blessing on the new school year ahead.

New Pictorial Directory for 2023

Starting on **August 6th**, Christina will be in the church office to take you and/or your family's picture either before the service or after the service. She will also have a clipboard for you to verify or update your contact information. If you would like to send your own picture, use same photo from two years ago, or updated your contact information, please e-mail her at christina@smaalongview.org.

Confirmation Classes

Classes will begin sometime in August for students in grades 7th and up. If interested, please contact Mother Tracey.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate the flowers for the service, the Flower Dedication forms for 2022 are in the narthex.

This Sunday's Servers

Acolytes: Ruby Hahne
Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown
Danny's Team: Laura Buckner
Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Brown
Greeter: Michael Greathouse
Lector: Helen Daniel
Nursery Helper: Marie Tuckner
Ushers: Donna Richardson
Vestry People: Roxanne Brink, Susan Brown
Worship Tech: Gianna Glave

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Terry Lewis for diabetes & neuropathy
- The Akinson & Brown Family
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

Comfort For:

- Becky Supercinski's granddaughter

Bereavement For:

- Prayers for the Kirschke Family: Sara, Dawn, Stefanie & Linsay for the passing of their father
- Sunni Spraggins Family

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/ BELOW
06/25/23	\$3,318	\$2,939	\$379
07/02/23	\$3,480	\$2,939	\$541
07/09/23	\$807	\$2,939	-\$2,132
07/16/23	\$2,703	\$2,939	-\$236
YTD TOTALS	\$96,162	\$85,227	\$10,935

Next Sunday's Servers (08/06)

Acolytes: Jonathan Roberts
Cameras & Streaming: Michael Greathouse
Danny's Team: Mary Lynn Dawes
Eucharistic Ministers: David Brown
Greeter: Bryan White
Lector: Amy Brown
Nursery Helper: Ruby Hahne
Ushers: Donna Richardson
Vestry People: Samantha Rauch, Tommy Smith
Worship Tech: Gianna Glave

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church
 The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll
 Email: mothertracey@smaalongview.org
 Church Website: smaalongview.org
 Phone: (903) 759-2051