

Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them but gather the wheat into my barn."

Matthew 13:30

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

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Setting Four

It is an age-old question: Why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day when all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Jays & Concerns

Prelude

Ava Maria

~F. Schubert

Willem Lutter, violin

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

C. Amen

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P. Merciful God,

C. we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen

P. Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

C. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

ELW 681

The Greeting

P. From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C. And also with you.

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray

C. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may 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.

L. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.



Isaiah 44:6

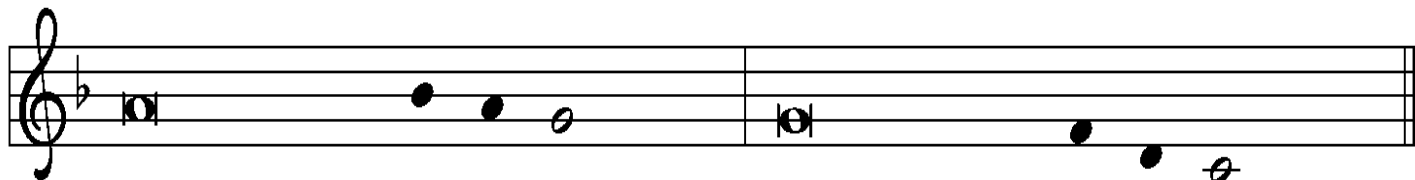
Thus says the Lord,
the King of Israel
and his Redeemer,
the Lord of hosts:
“I am the first and
I am the last;
besides me
there is no god.

Psalmody

Psalm 86:11-17

(ELW tone 4)

sung responsively



Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk ¹ in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- ¹ vere your name.

**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with ¹ all my heart,
and glorify your name for- ¹ evermore.**

For great is your ¹ love toward me;
you have delivered me from the ¹ pit of death.

**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people ¹ seeks my life;
they have not set you be- ¹ fore their eyes.**

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- ¹ ness and truth.

**Turn to me and have mer- ¹ cy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child ¹ of your handmaid.**

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be ¹ put to shame;
because you, Lord, have helped me and com- ¹ forted me.

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 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.

L. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



*But if we hope for what we
do not see, we wait for it
with patience.
Romans 8:25*

P. The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter thirteen.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus put before the crowd 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!"

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you O Christ.



Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

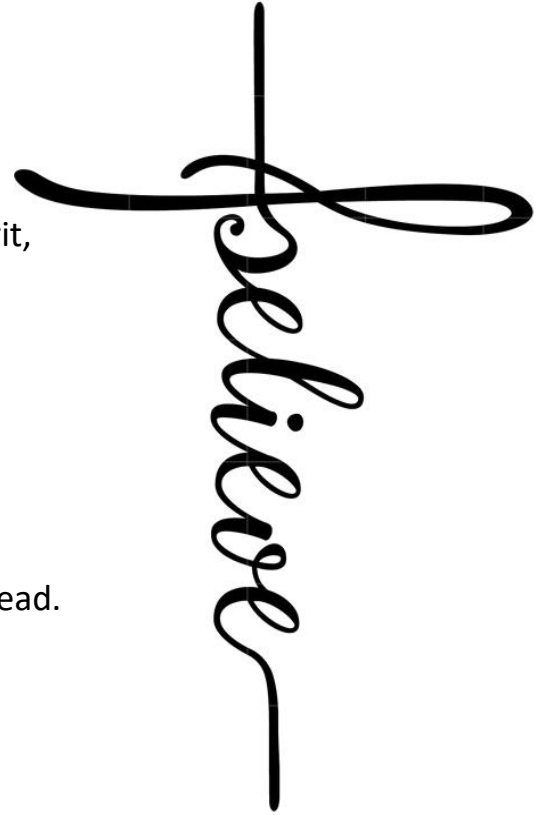
ELW 693

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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



Prayers of Intercession

A. Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

P. Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C. Amen.

The Peace

- P. Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled.
May His peace be with you always.
- C. And also with you.



The Offering

Anthem

Willem Lutter, violin

Let the vineyards...

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical notation is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Offertory Prayer

- A. God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

This musical score is for a four-part setting of the Great Thanksgiving. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed in pairs. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

P. It is indeed.....

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might.

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

This musical score is for a four-part setting of the Sanctus. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody features a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some phrases ending in a half note. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

P. All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

C. Amen.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

Shout to the Lord

ELW 821

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

C. Amen



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Prayer

A. 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.

C. Amen.

Blessing

P. The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed † bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

On What Has Now Been Sown

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Share the Harvest



Servers for Sunday, July 23rd

Assisting Minister Shannon Thomsen
Reader Shannon Thomsen
Altar Guild Sylvia Lambert
Greeters/Counters Terry Barnes / Neil Brennecke
Special Musician Willem Lutter, violin

Serving
from the
Heart

Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway.
Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Candles for the month of July
are given to the Glory of God
by Matt & Larissa Himmeger.



Flowers this week are provided by Matt & Larissa Himmeger
in celebration of their 38th Wedding Anniversary.

Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the hallway.