

**THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST**  
**July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 9:30 AM**

**WELCOME**



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 that 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.

- ✠ Preacher – Brian Griswold
- ✠ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection*

Most merciful God, **you asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them, but then withdrew them for the work was too hard. You asked for my eyes to see the needs around me, but I closed them for I did not want to see. You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get to involved. Lord, forgive my efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so. Renew me and lead me, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. Live now as the forgiven child of God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into all righteousness. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN: ELW#731 – Earth and All Stars**

**Prayer of the Day** - 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.**

**GOD'S HOLY WORD**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 44: 6 - 8**

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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.

**Psalm 86:11-17**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.



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

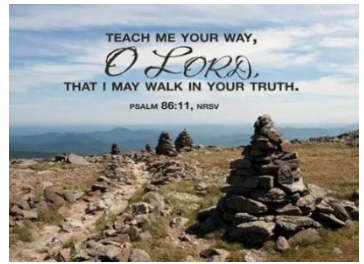
**13** For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

**14 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.**

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

**16 Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

**17** Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; **because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**



### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 13: 24 – 30, 36 - 43; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>24</sup> [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,<sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup> 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?' <sup>28</sup> He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup> But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> 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.' "

<sup>36</sup> 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." <sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup> the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup> and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup> 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, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## SERMON –Brian Griswold

### HYMN: ELW#635 – We Walk By Faith

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

† *We recognize all joining us virtually and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests.*

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Help us not to give way to the evil one. When we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our shepherd, we seek Your divine wisdom and guidance in our search for a permanent pastor to lead us with humility, love, and grace. Lord, bless our search process, our call committee and open doors to reveal the right candidate to us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*(Additional Petitions may be offered.)*

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

### OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

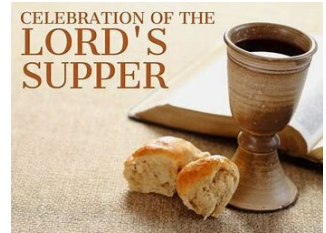
As we present our offerings today, we are reminded of your great love for us. Your love knows no bounds and is beyond measure. Help us to reflect your love in all that we do, including our giving. May these gifts be used to spread your love to others, bringing hope and healing to a world in need. Thank you for your love that never fails us. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.



With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection, and His coming again.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest, and pray unto you the prayer he taught us to pray -

**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** – Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

### OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

#### COMMUNION HYMNS

1: On Bended Knee	2: Stir My Spirit
<p>On bended knee I come, with a humble heart I come,                      Bowing down before Your holy throne.                      Lifting holy hands to You, as I pledge my love anew,                      I worship You in spirit, I worship you in truth,                      Make my life a holy praise unto You.</p> <p>© 1988 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI License # 22085334</p>	<p>Stir my spirit, O Lord, I pray                      Tune my ear that I might hear Your word.                      Take pleasure in, be glorified by every step I take,                      Build my life a temple for You, Lord.</p> <p>By Darrell Dement c. 1986 ZionSong Music, CCLI license #22085334</p>

#### COMMUNION HYMN 3: : O Lord, You're Beautiful

O Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek;  
 And when Your eyes are on this child, your grace abounds to me.

O Lord, You're wonderful, Your touch is all I need;  
 And when Your hand is on this child, Your healing I receive.

O Lord, please light the fire, That once burned bright and clear,  
 Replace the lamp of my first love that burns with holy fear.

O Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek;  
 And when Your eyes are on this child, Your grace abounds to me.

*By Keith Green; c.1980 Ears to Hear Music, Adm. Capitol CMG Publishing; CCLI# 14514*

**Closing Prayer** - Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

**Blessing** - Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: Shout to the Lord**

<p><b>CHORUS:</b>          Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing.          Power and majesty praise to the King          Mountains bow down and the seas will roar;          at the sound of Your name.          I sing for joy at the work of Your hands;          Forever I'll love You - forever I'll stand          Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.</p>	<p>My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like You          All of my days I want to praise          the wonders of Your mighty love.          My comfort, my shelter, Tower of refuge and strength          Let every breath, All that I am,          Never cease to worship you  <b>(CHORUS)</b>          By Darlene Zachech @1993 Integrity Hosanna Music          Used by permission CCLI License #22085334</p>
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**Song of Blessing**

May God’s blessing surround you each day,  
 As you trust God and walk in God’s way.  
 May God’s presence within guard and keep you from sin,  
 Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

*C. 1982 by Cliff Barrows. C. 1986 by Pierre Lacher, CCLI License # 22085334*

**Dismissal:** Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

**Notes:**

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