



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 23, 2017**

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TEMPLE TALK by
Tammy DeGarmo from Project 16:49**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy
endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no
secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily
magnify your holy name, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(A brief silence.)*
Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

HYMN *“O Day of Rest and Gladness”*

**O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness,
most beautiful, most bright:
on you the high and lowly,
through ages joined in tune,
sing, "Holy, holy, holy,"
to the great God triune.**

**On you, at earth's creation,
the light first had its birth;
on you, for our salvation,
Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious
the Spirit sent from heav'n;
and thus on you, most glorious,
a threefold light was giv'n.**

**Today on weary nations
the heav'nly manna falls;
to holy convocations
the silver trumpet calls,
where gospel light is glowing
with pure and radiant beams
and living water flowing
with soul-refreshing streams.**

**New graces ever gaining
from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining
to spirits of the blest.**

**We sing to you our praises,
O Father, Spirit, Son;
the church its voice upraises
to you, blest Three in One.**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

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.



Children's
CHURCH

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

A reading from Isaiah, the 44th chapter.

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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A RESPONSIVE READING FROM PSALM 86

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

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

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

**C: 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.**

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

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

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

A reading from Romans, the 8th chapter.

So then, 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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C: 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!”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON
“Spiritual Agriculture, Part II”

HYMN OF THE DAY

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

**On what has now been sown
your blessing, Lord, bestow;
the pow'r is yours alone
to make it sprout and grow.
O Lord, in grace the harvest raise,
and yours alone shall be the praise!**

**To you our wants are known,
from you are all our pow'rs;
accept what is your own
and pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive
and to your word a blessing give.**

**Oh, grant that each of us,
now met before you here,
may meet together thus
when you and yours appear,
and follow you to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, Amen! Lord Jesus, come!**

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Called together in the Spirit's embrace,
let us pray for the mending of God's world.
(A brief silence.) Enliven your church with
love for your world, O God. Give undivided
hearts to Christians from Africa and the
Americas, Asia and Europe. Make us one in
faithful witness to your will.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Renew the life of this earth, O God, even as it groans because of misuse and decay. Cultivate in us an eager longing for a healthy and life-giving earth.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Bridge the chasms that divide the nations,
O God. Inspire a reconciling vision among
the world's leaders, and bring together
people of differing commitments for the
sake of the world's most vulnerable people.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Embrace those who suffer, O God.
Give peace to all who are near death, hope
to those who are depressed, shelter to the
homeless, and healing to the sick
(*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Embolden our witness to your love, O God.
Send us out into the world with courageous
hearts, persistence, and holy wisdom.
Inspire us to tend to and delight in our
children's faith. Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Raise up your saints, O God. Inspire us by the lives of all reformers and renewers of your church. Receive our thanks for the saints among us who have recently died (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

~ VIDEO DURING THE OFFERING ~
"O God, Forgive Us"
by
FOR KING & COUNTRY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*We give thee but thine own,
whatever the gifts may be
All that we have is thine alone,
a trust, oh Lord, from thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus,
as stewards true receive,
And gladly as though blessed us,
to thee our first fruits give.*

*We Give
Thee But Thine Own*

The logo consists of the words 'We Give Thee But Thine Own' in a mix of red and black cursive fonts. The word 'Give' is the largest and features a small red heart icon above the letter 'i'. The words 'Thee But' are smaller and positioned below 'We'. The words 'Thine Own' are also smaller and positioned below 'Give'.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the
Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

~ WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~

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.

~ ***COMMUNION*** ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and
Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “*Choral Benediction*”

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the light of God shine on us today.

May it show us where to travel,

lead us back if we should stray,

May the light of God shine on us today.

**May the love of God live in us today.
May the love of God live in us today.
May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say,
May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways,
May the peace of God be with us today.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

































































