

JULY 19, 2020

WELCOMING WORD *It's an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? It the parable of the wheat and weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;

C: give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

L: I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

C: and I will glorify your name for ever.

L: For great is your steadfast love towards me;

C: you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

OPENING HYMN #514 O Savior, Precious Savior (vs. 1-3)

O Savior, precious savior, whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor, all other names above.
We worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing.
We praise thee and confess thee, our holy Lord and King!

O bringer of salvation, who wondrously hast wrought
Thyself the revelation of love beyond our thought;
We worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing.
We praise thee and confess thee, our gracious Lord and King!

In thee all fullness dwelleth, all grace and pow'r divine;
The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is thine.
We worship thee; we bless thee; to thee alone we sing.
We praise thee and confess thee, our glorious Lord and King!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin,

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us: through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P: Beloved of God, by the abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INVOCATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Faithful God,

C: 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 LESSON: Isaiah 44:6-8 ⁶Thus 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. ⁷Who 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. ⁸Do 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.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:12-25 ¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for 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. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For 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!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and 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. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that 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. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and 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. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 ²⁴He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And 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?"

²⁸He answered, "An enemy has done this."

The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?"

²⁹But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let 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."

³⁶Then 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."

³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #407 Come, You Thankful People, Come

Come, you thankful people come; raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come. Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield.
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home.
From his field shall in that day all offenses purge away.
Give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast.
But the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home.
Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin.
There, forever purified, in you garner to abide.
Come, with all your angels, come. Raise the glorious harvest home!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER Of all the gifts which you have given us, we treasure your Holy Spirit, O God. In gratitude for guidance and discernment, we offer these tributes before you and ask your blessing. May our lives be a blessing to others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence

L: God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Especially those who have lost loved one, and the many suffer illness during this pandemic. Open our hearts to your children who are feeling lonely, isolated, and abandoned. All who feel trapped by despair, and all those from our community of faith who we name now before you. Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #532 How Great Thou Art (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder; thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.

Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 19, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 75, Thanksgiving for God's Wondrous Deeds

Tuesday, Galatians 4:21-5:1, Allegory of Hagar and Sarah

Wednesday, John 20:1-2; 11-18, Mary Magdalene at the tomb

Thursday, Psalm 119:129-136, Praise for God's Word

Friday, Acts 7:44-53, Stephen's speech to the Council

Saturday, Mark 10:35-45, Request of James and John

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "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." " **Matthew 13:30** Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgement will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

- Are you tempted to judge others as weeds, unworthy of God's love?
- Do you sometimes feel that you are unworthy of God's love?
- What if we stuck to our work of sharing the word and nurturing life and left the judging to God?

PRAY: 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.

BLESS: May you trust in God's judgement this day. Amen!



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Helen Kahl

Jeff Paske

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)

Helen Martinson

Makenzee Smith

Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)

Martha Hartman

Jeannie U'Ren

Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)

Irene Bruflat

Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)

Bill Steinhauer

Peter Toniazzo

Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)

John Conrad (Kathy Conrad's son)

LeRoy Collins

Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's sons)

Sammy Peede (nephew of Kari and Dan Hustad)

Delores Bryant

Brock Howe

Dorothy Jelle

Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)

Ruth Ann Nemet

Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)

Harlan Oimoen

Grace Aavang

Trevor Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)

Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)