**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 23, 2023, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

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Description automatically generated**GATHERING SONG Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW 807**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,☩ one God, who greets us in this and every season,

whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God’s mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17**

11Teach 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.**   
 13For 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.**  
 15But 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.**

**SECOND READING: 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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Description automatically generated**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

24[Jesus] put before [the crowds] 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!”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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Description automatically generated**SERMON**

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Description automatically generated**HYMN OF THE DAY** **Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ELW 693**

**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 power of the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**A close-up of hands shaking

Description automatically generated with medium confidencewas 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**

…Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great,**

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.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in July*** *(collected in a special envelope) will go to* ***SOS Best First Day.*** The project will provide registered children with two outfits including shoes, socks, & underwear to begin the school year. The distribution will happen on August 10th and pre-registration is required.

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Description automatically generated**OFFERING SONG Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil ELW 512**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

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Description automatically generated**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sung) ELW 189**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,

you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,

but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets

to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;

our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant

to preach good news to the afflicted,

to break bread with the outcast and despised,

and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup

we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,

we await the day when Jesus shall return

to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,

to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup

with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,

that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,

we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**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** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

All people are called to Christ’s table.

Come, eat what is good.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

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.

**Amen.**

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**VBS Helpers Needed**

**Junior Counselors:**  
We are looking for youth in grades 7-12 interested in being Junior Counselors on some or all of the VBS dates.   
7/31-8/3.  Camp is 9-2 but I think they would need to be there around 8:45.  
  
**Kitchen Helpers:**  
We are looking for someone that can help in the kitchen to provide snacks to the kids and lunch to the counselors and helpers on our “Food Day” of 8/1 from 10:15-12:45 x 2 helpers.  
Thursday we are looking for one helper from 10:15-12:45 to help with snacks and lunch along with helpers from the other two churches.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### **Office Summer Hours**

Our office hours will vary this summer as staff are on vacation and schedules change.  Please call ahead if you plan to stop by the office.

\*Michelle is out of the office July 17-28.

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | |
| July 23 | Dave & Kami Weis | Julie Will | Ron Rothfusz  Andrea Hovick | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill |
| July 30 | John & Jane Wagner | Shelly Schneider | Sarah Kopitzke Tammy Neumann | Nancy Leonard | Breanna Butler |
| August 6 | Julie Will | Kris Tarter | John Wagner Nancy Leonard | Robin Beeman | David Schneider |
| August 13 | Andrew & Katelynn Neidner | Linda Schrieber | Dan & Pam Mundt | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis |

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Sunday, July 23 | 9:00 am | Outdoor Worship Service   * 8th Sunday after Pentecost * Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; the parable of the weeks. |
| Tuesday, July 25 | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, July 26 | 6:00 pm | Pub Theology |
| Sunday, July 30 | 9:00 am | Outdoor Worship Service   * 9th Sunday after Pentecost   Matthew 13:31-33, 44-42; parables of the reign of heaven. |

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**A picture containing text, graphic design, screenshot, flyer

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SOS current needs: Dried Soup, Jelly, Pancake Mix, Cake/Brownie/Muffin Mix, Gallon Size Ziploc Bags, Kid Toothpaste, Baby Wipes.

Well Stocked: Beans—in all forms canned or dried, Corn, Peas, Canned Fruit, Cereal

There is a tote in the narthex for any donations.