

## The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost ✠ July 19, 2020

***WELCOME!** Why must we endure the questions, the challenges, and the things that are not as they should be? The disciples long ago wondered about this too. Why are there weeds in God's field and what can be done about it? The seed was good, but God has enemies, and so do you. It is not given to us to resolve this until the Lord's time, when He will separate the weeds from the wheat. It is enough for us to know that God knows the hearts of people and that this tension will not endure. When Jesus comes in His glory, the angels will gather out of His kingdom all who do not belong. Then the righteous shall shine like the sun, so take heart, people of God.*



### THE PASTORAL GREETING

#### THE OPENING HYMN – “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”      LSB 761

- 1    Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;  
      Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,  
      Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
  
- 2    Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;  
      Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,  
      All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.
  
- 3    Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
      Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
      Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

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### THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P:**    In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:**    **Amen.**

**P:**    If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C:**    **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*1 John 1:8-9*

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

**C:**    **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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:**    Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:**    **Amen.**

### THE KYRIE

**P:**    In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C:**    **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Lord, have mercy upon Your people whom You have redeemed with the holy and precious blood of Your Son. Guard us against temptation, guide us with the light of Your Word, and give all things needful to us that we faithfully serve You to eternal life.

All: **Amen.**

### THE HYMN OF PRAISE— “Thou Art My Portion, O My God”

Tune: LSB 577

- 1 Thou art my portion, O my God; That I may know Thy way,  
My heart makes haste to keep Thy Word, And suffers no delay.
- 2 I choose the path of heav'nly truth, And glory in my choice;  
Not all the riches of the earth Could make me so rejoice.
- 3 The testimonies of Thy grace I set before my eyes;  
From these derive my daily strength, In these my comfort lies.
- 4 If I once wander from Thy path, I think upon my ways,  
Then turn my feet to Thy commands, And trust Thy pard'ning grace.
- 5 Now I am Thine, forever Thine, O save Thy servant, Lord  
Thou art my shield, my hiding place; My hope is in Thy Word.
- 6 Thou hast inclin'd this heart of mine Thy statutes to fulfill;  
And thus, till mortal life shall end, Would I perform Thy will.

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Public domain*

### ✠ THE WORD ✠

#### THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 44:6-8, ESV

*There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and now we—are redeemed.*

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 him proclaim it. Let him declare and set

it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE SECOND READING – Romans 8:12-27, ESV**

*For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Holy Spirit, who enables us to pray as God’s children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from the bondage to death and decay.*

So then, brothers, 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 sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE HYMN – “Lord, ‘Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee”** (Vs. 3) **LSB 573**

- 3 Praise the God of all creation; Praise the Father’s boundless love.  
Praise the Lamb, our expiation, Priest and King enthroned above.  
Praise the Spirit of salvation, Him by whom our spirits live.  
Undivided adoration To the great Jehovah give.

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### **THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, ESV**

[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather 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 came to 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 is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the

sons 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 gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE HYMN – “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”** (*Vs. 1-3*) **LSB 892**

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God’s own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest home.
  
- 2 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.
  
- 3 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.

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**THE MESSAGE**

**✠ THE RESPONSE ✠**

**THE HYMN OF RESPONSE – “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”** (*Vs. 4*) **LSB 892**

- 4 Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide:  
Come with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

**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.**

**THE BLESSING**

**P:** May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C:** Amen.

**THE HYMN – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

**LSB 805**

1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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**✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠**

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