

7th Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Deerfield Beach, Florida

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 we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

We Gather

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor, let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin. God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned against you, against one another, and against the earth entrusted to our care. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us ☩ all our trespasses by taking our sins to the cross. For freedom Christ has set us free: Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"



- 1 My hope is built on noth- ing less than Je- sus' blood and righ- teous- ness;
- 2 When dark- ness veils his love- ly face, I rest on his un- chang- ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov- e- nant, his blood sus- tain me in the rag- ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum- pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer- it of my own I claim, but whol- ly lean on Je- sus' name.
in ev- 'ry high and storm- y gale my an- chor holds with- in the veil.
when all sup- ports are washed a- way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ- teous- ness a- lone, re- deemed to stand be- fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol- id rock, I stand; all oth- er ground is



sink- ing sand, all oth- er ground is sink- ing sand.

OPENING LITANY

We are the people of Zion!

A city on a hill, a light that cannot be hid!

Following Jesus

Everyone is welcome here!

Following Jesus

We equip each other for ministry!

Following Jesus

We are sent to serve our neighbor!

This is the day the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Let us pray...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.**

We Hear & Respond to God's Word

YOUTH MESSAGE

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 44:6-8

A reading from Isaiah:

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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE 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

A reading from Romans:

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 hope²¹that 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter...

Glory to you, O Lord!

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!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"For the Fruit of All Creation"



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

APOSTLES' CREED

Together with all Christians of every time, place, and space, let us confess our faith, using the words of the 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 into hell.**
**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

Following Each Petition: ...Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught 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.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

This is the time in our worship to give thanks to God for your blessings. How is God blessing you and calling you to bless others? We invite your support of ongoing and growing ministries at Zion.

We Are Sent into the World

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you ☩ peace. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Refrain

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle wide!

Let the dreams we dream be larger
than we've ever dreamed before.
Let the dream of Christ be in us:
open every door! **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.
Go in peace. Christ is sending you!
Thanks be to God!

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