



ST. MATTHEW TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Where tradition and inclusivity meet.

Divine Worship

Pentecost VII

SMT Parish

July 19, 2020



Introduction

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.

Welcome and Thanksgiving for Baptism

At Home: Use a bowl of water to make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, on the foreheads of one another.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the pastor gives thanks.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into the darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Indeed, we give you thanks,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,

you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
You give us water for the cleansing of our hands so that we may love our
neighbor as you command.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Apostolic Greeting *II Corinthians*

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

And also with you!

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

*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 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.
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.

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

11Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.
12**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,
and glorify your name for- | evermore. R**
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 be- | fore their eyes.**
15But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.
16**Turn to me and have mer- | cy 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 com- | forted me. R**

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which 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 bondage to death and decay.

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. 14For 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.

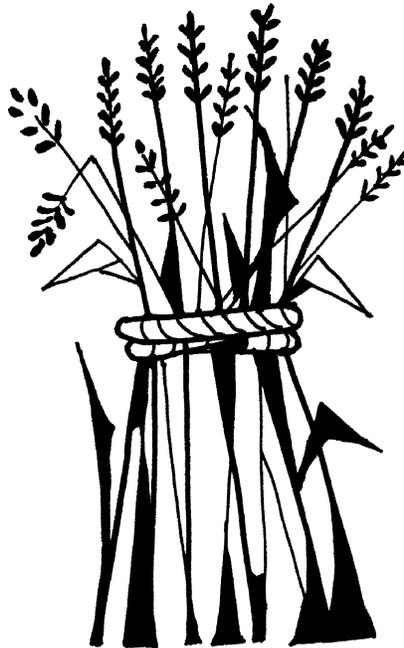
Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

[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. 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.'"

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!”



Meditation - *Mr. Mark Singleton*

Hymn

What Is This Place



1 What is this place where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

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Prayers of Intercession

Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

- The Family of **Richard Altomare** (friend of Mark Singleton)
- Thanksgiving for the quick recovery of **Humberto Arango** (husband of Richard Brode)
- **Dena Calabrese** (friend of Irene Murray)
- The Family of **Florence Dombrowsky** (funeral service provided by our congregation, who died from Covid19)
- **Carol and Donna** (friends of Leslie Neve)
- The family of **Dawn Ennis** (who died of Covid19), (sister-in-law of Pamella Pater-Ennis).
- **Zoia “Charlie” Foster** (Pastor’s niece)
- The Family of **Sean Gustwiller** (friends of Courtney Kochuba)
- We give thanks for the life of **Arthur Jusu-Davies**, a member of St Matthew Trinity who passed away during the last week of May.
- **The Rev. Tom and Janice Kildea, and their children James and Jenny**, at the death by suicide of their oldest son and brother, **Amani**, on June 28. Along with the Kildea family, we also hold in prayer **the congregation of Redeemer, Succasunna**, where Pastor Kildea serves.
- **Gary LeCroy, Sr.** (Pastor's dad recovering from surgery).
- The family of **Francis Ng** (who died from Covid19), (friend of Dan Stoll)
- The Family of **Charles Powers** (friends of the Meusel family who died from Covid19)
- The Family of **Rosa Reyes** (friend of the church who died from Covid19)
- **John Weakland** (Brian Weakland’s Father)
- Tee family of **Barbara Wolfshorndl** (Covid victim, funeral by our parish)
- **Dida Hagen** (friend of MIndy Rostal’s recently diagnosed cancer),
- **Joanne Kraye**, (Joel's cousin).

Confident of God’s care for us in the midst of the world’s sufferings, we join together in the power of the Spirit to pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all who are in need, responding to the words “Teach us your way” with the phrase “you are full of compassion.”

A brief silence.

God of the church, we praise you for sowing the good seed of the gospel throughout the world, and we mourn that at this time many Christians

cannot assemble to nurture one another for growth in the faith. Tend your people; support bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; give us strength through your word. Lead seminaries to plan appropriately for the fall semester.

A brief silence.

O God, teach us your way:

you are full of compassion.

God of the earth, we praise you for a wondrous creation, and we mourn that many lands and seas are groaning for rebirth. Nurture our green spaces and national parks; send rain where there is drought; protect endangered animals from poachers. Show us how to care for your earth and its creatures.

A brief silence.

O God, teach us your way:

you are full of compassion.

God of the nations, we praise you for the good that has been given us in this country, and we mourn that many people here are poor and dispossessed, that we have allowed racism to distort our society, that violence breaks out in our land. Lead us to form communities in which all people are equal and where disputes are settled without violence. Save us from preserving a past that has been harmful to many. Bring an end to warfare around the world, and mend the torn fabric of humankind with your truth and mercy.

A brief silence.

O God, teach us your way:

you are full of compassion.

God of humankind, we praise you for wherever health and happiness prevail, and we mourn that many people suffer. Each day thousands more contract the virus; renters are facing eviction; medical workers are exhausted; some of the sick have no access to health care; countless people are broken by sorrows. Open our hearts to your children who suffer in any way, and show us how to serve them.

A brief silence.

O God, teach us your way:

you are full of compassion.

God of the seasons, we praise you for summertime, and we mourn that this year many hopes and expectations are denied. Give relief to those who suffer from the heat. Protect travelers from infection. Guard our children. Give rest to those with no vacation time, hope to those who are unemployed, and patience to all who must endure this difficult time.

A brief silence.

O God, teach us your way:

you are full of compassion.

God, you are Abba, our loving Father. You are our Sovereign of our lives, our Redeemer, the Rock on which we build. Hear us as we offer the petitions of our hearts.

A longer time of silence.

O God, teach us your way:

you are full of compassion.

God of eternity, we praise you for all who have died in the faith, especially this week the apostles Mary Magdalene and James. We mourn our own beloved dead. At the end, bring us all into the shining light of your presence.

A brief silence.

O God, teach us your way:

you are full of compassion.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

Or

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 trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 75. Tuesday Galatians 4:21 — 5:1. Wednesday (Mary Magdalene, Apostle) John 20:1-2, 11-18. Thursday (commemoration of Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the Church, died 1373) Psalm 119:129-136. Friday Acts 7:44-53. Saturday (James, Apostle) Mark 10:35-45. Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:26-39; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

Daily Prayer Resources are available, including simple forms of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer; Responsive Prayer; and prayers for mealtimes and other occasions.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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