

8TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



***Welcome to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School***
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

July 19, 2026

THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



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Lord, teach me your ways,
and I will live and obey
your truths. Help me make
worshipping your name
the most important thing
in my life.

Psalms 86:11

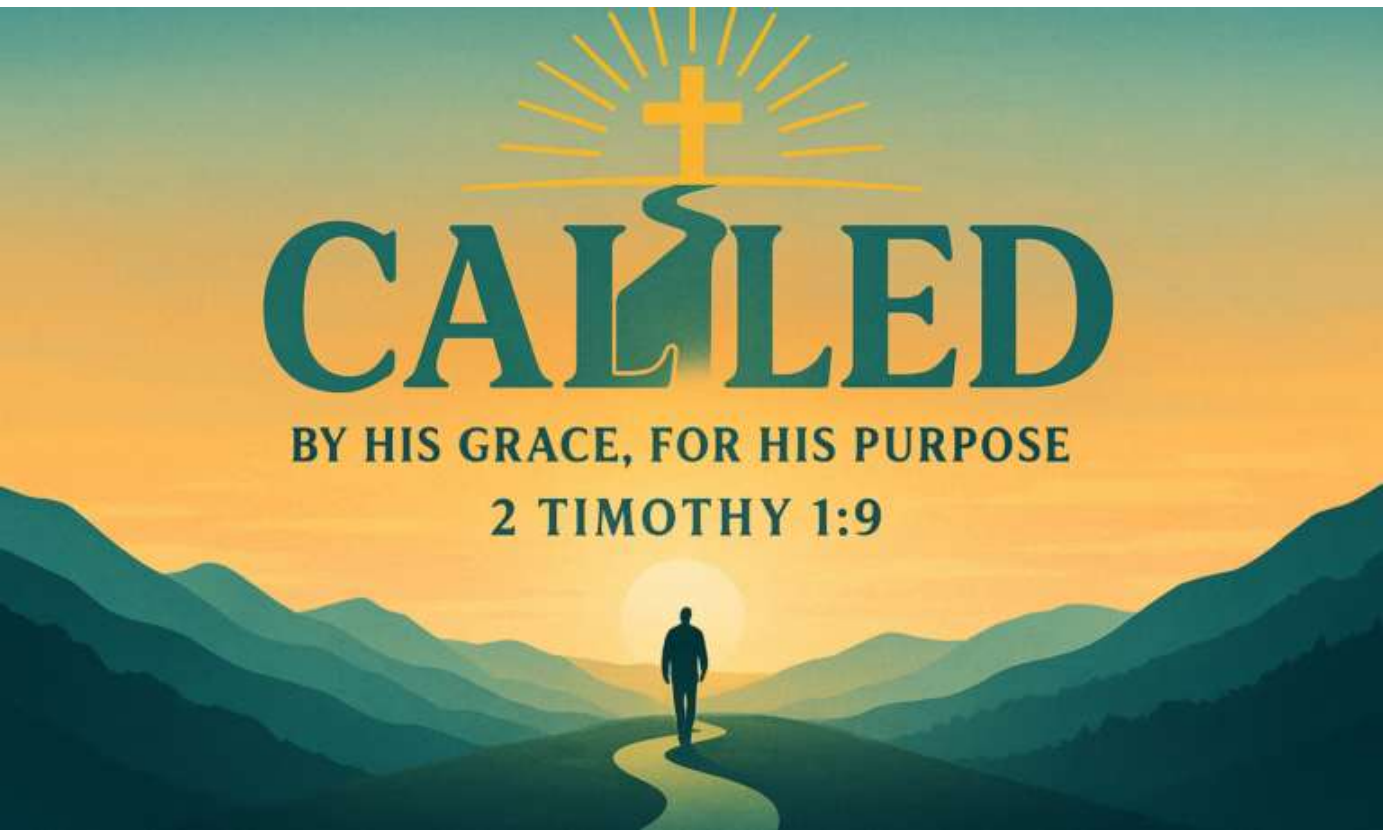


lcmc

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



CALLED

BY HIS GRACE, FOR HIS PURPOSE
2 TIMOTHY 1:9



***The 2026 Annual TX District Gathering,
will be held July 24-25 at St. Paul Lutheran Church
in New Braunfels, Texas***



**Brunch will resume
in August**



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PRAY FOR: TEACHERS

O God, call and equip many to be teachers of your word to the ends of the earth.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 2:2

 **PRAYER LEAGUE**
prayerleague.org

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

In the name of God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Gathering Song

“All Who Are Thirsty”

Hymn # 981

From ASC Supplement

**¹ All who are thirsty,
come to the waters.
All who are hungry,
come here and eat.**

**All who are thirsty,
come to the waters.
There's enough for all**

Hymn # 981

**Final All who are thirsty,
come to the waters.
All who are hungry,
come here and eat.**

Hymn # 981

**All who are thirsty,
come to the waters.
There's enough for all**

Hymn # 981

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

Lord, have mercy.

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord*

Lord, have mercy.

*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*

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord
A-men.

THIS IS THE FEAST

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.***

Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

***Worthy is Christ,
the Lamb who was slain
whose blood set us free
to be people of God***

***Power, riches, wisdom, and
strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory
are his***

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.***

Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

***Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all
creation:***

***Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen.***

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.***

Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

***For the Lamb who was slain
has begun his reign. Alleluia.***

***This is the feast of victory
for our God.***

Alleluia, alleluia

(sung twice)

Prayer of the Day

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.

WORD

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.

⁶ 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. ⁷ Who 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. ⁸ Do 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.

PSALM: 86:11-17

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

¹¹ Teach 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.**

¹³ For 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.**

¹⁵ But 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

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.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”

¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God,

²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ 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.

²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But 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

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ 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?’

²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ 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.' "

³⁶ 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.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

⁴¹ The 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. ⁴³ Then 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

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



Hymn of the Day

“For the Fruit of all Creation”

Hymn # 679

**¹ For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.**

Hymn # 679

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are
sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-
keeping,
thanks be to God.**

Hymn # 679

**2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.**

**In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.**

Hymn # 679

**In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

Hymn # 679

**Final For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.**

Hymn # 679

**For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound
us,
most of all, that love has found
us,
thanks be to God.**

Hymn # 679

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

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 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.**

Congregation may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury and we remember our friends and family members before you.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionary Carmen in Nepal, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Branch, New York, Utah.

Today we also give you thanks for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Wuthrich Hill, Texas and their pastor, Michael Albrecht. Bless their ministry both now and for generations to come.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. 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 thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks
and praise

It is indeed right, our duty and our
joy...

...we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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.**

COMMUNION

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line
and at the altar rail.*

Lamb of God Pg. 174

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.***



Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle line and at the altar rail.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and
mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you
peace.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

Hymn # 674

**¹ Let us talents and tongues
employ, reaching out with a
shout of joy:**

Hymn # 674

**bread is broken, the wine is
poured,
Christ is spoken and seen
and heard.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 674

[Refrain – Sung Twice]

**Jesus lives again, earth can
breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!**

Hymn # 674

**2 Christ is able to make us
one, at the table he sets the
tone,**

Hymn # 674

**teaching people to live to
bless, love in word and in
deed express.
[Refrain]**

Hymn # 674

[Refrain – Sung Twice]

**Jesus lives again, earth can
breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!**

Hymn # 674

**Final Jesus calls us in, sends
us out bearing fruit in a
world of doubt,**

Hymn # 674

**gives us love to tell, bread to
share: God (Immanuel)
ev'rywhere!**

[Refrain]

Hymn # 674

[Refrain – Sung Twice]

**Jesus lives again, earth can
breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!**

Hymn # 674

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

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