



*“Wheat and Weeds”*

*Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 5:00 pm*

*Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 8:00 am*

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
(Traditional Service)**

**AS WE GATHER**

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.

*Please stand for portions of service marked with asterisk (\*).*

**THE PRELUDE**

Laura Moes, Accompanist

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**THE WELCOME AND VIDEO GREETING**

Pastor Chris Matthis

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*"Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"*

LSB 908

1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your  
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants  
△ 3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the  
Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -  
heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and  
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or  
tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.  
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.  
be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

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**+ PREPARATION +**

**\*INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and  $\times$  of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**\*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** Give ear, O Lord, to the prayers of Your people, and listen to their cry for mercy.

**People:** You, O Lord, are a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

*Silence for self-examination*

**Pastor:** Lord of mercy,

**People:** we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in You there is the fullness of righteousness and an abundance of mercy. We are poor sinners whose thoughts, words, and deeds betray our weakness and death. You, O Lord, are gracious and merciful and, through Jesus





We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

### **\*SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. O steadfast Lord, You are the great I AM whose promises never fail us and in whom alone salvation is to be found. Grant to us hearts to trust in Your mercy and courage in the face of doubt and fear that we not surrender hope to darkness and faith to unbelief; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## **+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

*Isaiah 44:6-8*

*(Besides Me there is no god.)*

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.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 119:57-64*

Pastor: The LORD is my portion;

**People: I promise to keep Your words.**

Pastor: I entreat Your favor with all my heart;

**People: be gracious to me according to Your promise.**

Pastor: When I think on my ways,

**People: I turn my feet to Your testimonies;**

Pastor: I hasten and do not delay

**People: to keep Your commandments.**

Pastor: Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,

**People: I do not forget Your law.**

Pastor: At midnight I rise to praise You,

**People: because of Your just and righteous decrees.**

Pastor: I am a companion of all who fear You,

**People: of those who keep Your precepts.**

Pastor: The earth, O LORD, is full of Your steadfast love;

**People: teach me Your statutes!**

△ **All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## EPISTLE

*Romans 8:18-27*

*(The Spirit intercedes for us.)*

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 decay 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.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*ALLELUIA and VERSE**

LSB pg. 205

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*HOLY GOSPEL**

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

*(The parable of the wheat and tares)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[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 children 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 close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close 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."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kristin Schmidt, DCE Intern

**SERMON HYMN**

*"Preach You the Word"*

LSB 586



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home To men who  
 2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task Your ser - vant  
 3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love Scat - ters a -  
 4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched And some be



like or like it not, The Word that shall en -  
 bade us un - der - take: To preach Your Word and  
 broad the good - ly seed, In - tent a - lone that  
 choked and mat - ted flat, The sow - er sows; his



ture and stand When flow'rs and men shall be for - got.  
nev - er ask What pride - ful prof - it it may make.  
all may have The whole - some loaves that all men need.  
heart cries out, "Oh, what of that, and what of that?"

5 Of all his scattered plenteousness  
One-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat,  
And bears a harvest hundredfold:  
"Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!"

6 Preach you the Word and plant it home  
And never faint; the Harvest Lord  
Who gave the sower seed to sow  
Will watch and tend His planted Word.

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## SERMON

Pastor Chris Matthis

## \*CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.**

## OFFERING

*"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit [www.epiphanylc.org](http://www.epiphanylc.org) and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.*



If you wish to mail your gift, send you check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.

## **\*VBS VOLUNTEER COMMISSIONING**

Pastor: Dear friends, thank you for volunteering to share *Rainforest Explorers* Vacation Bible School with kids this summer. As members of God's church, you'll have many opportunities to share Jesus' love in words and actions as you represent our Lord and our church. Will you help children and their families know and grow in Jesus, our Savior?

**Volunteers: Yes, with the help of God!**

Pastor: God's Word says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). The Holy Spirit works powerfully through God's Works to give us faith to believe in Jesus, to grow in faith, and to live as His people. Will you share God's Word in the Bible lessons with children and their families?

**Volunteers: Yes, with the help of God!**

Pastor: *(To the congregation)* And you, the Church of Christ, will you support, encourage, and pray for the *Rainforest Explorers* VBS program, its workers, and its teaching and outreach ministry?

**Congregation: Yes, with the help of God!**

Pastor: May the Holy Spirit empower all of us and make it so! Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition is read Pastor says, "Lord, in Your mercy," and Congregation responds with, "Hear our prayer."*

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER** *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

**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.**

## \*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

People: **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CLOSING HYMN

*"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"*

LSB 919



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace  
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,  
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;  
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.  
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.  
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.  
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

- 5 Abide with Your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.

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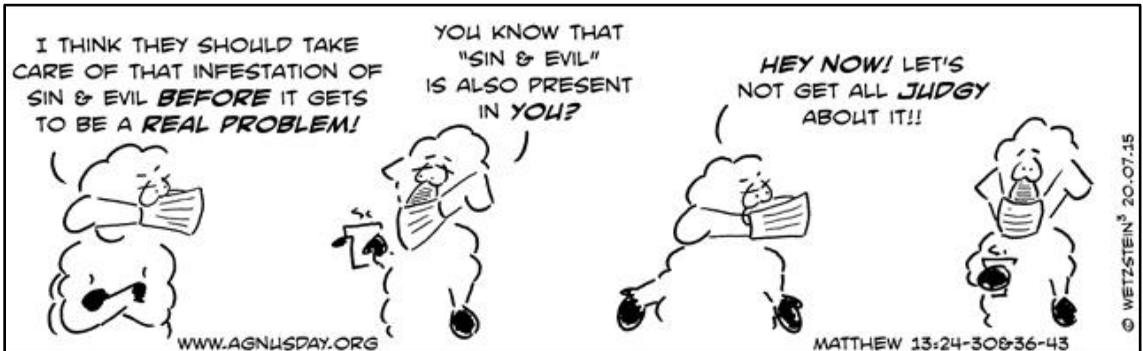
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## STEWARDSHIP VERSE

Our giving to God is to be sacrificial.

“We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part” (2 Cor. 8:1-2).

## CARTOON OF THE WEEK





## Epiphany Lutheran Church of Castle Rock, Colorado

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Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

*"We help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"*

