



*"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who
sowed good seed in his field;
Matthew 14:24b*

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 20, 2014

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Rev. Mark Bringman, Pastor

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*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 20, 2014

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.

PRELUDE: *Voluntary on 'As the Grains'* – arr. Ron Schmoltze

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds,
let us confess our sin.

God our strength,
**we confess that we are captive to the power of sin
that dwells within us.**

We put ourselves first and others last.

**What we think will make us happy
leaves us longing for more.**

**Even when we want to do what is good,
we find ourselves doing the opposite.**

**Rescue us from death's grip on our lives,
and raise us up day by day,
that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

Amen.

Sisters and brothers,
all have fallen short of the glory of God;
therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift.
Nothing can separate us
from the love of God in + Christ Jesus,
in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG #521: O Day of Rest and Gladness**

***GREETING**

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**

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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:1 – 8 (page 673 in Old Testament)

God claims the right to sole rule, because God announces things that actually do happen, while supposed divine opponents remain silent. God is Israel's redeemer, that is, the best brother or sister they ever had.

^{44:1} But now hear, O Jacob my servant,
Israel whom I have chosen!
² Thus says the LORD who made you,
who formed you in the womb and will help you:
Do not fear, O Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen.
³ For I will pour water on the thirsty land,
and streams on the dry ground;
I will pour my spirit upon your descendants,
and my blessing on your offspring.
⁴ They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,
like willows by flowing streams.
⁵ This one will say, 'I am the LORD's',
another will be called by the name of Jacob,
yet another will write on the hand, 'The

LORD's',
and adopt the name of Israel.
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

1. Teach me your way, O Lord,
And I will keep your law;
O knit my heart to you that I
May hold your Name in awe.
2. With all my heart, O Lord,
I praise your Name today;
For in your love you saved me from
The power of the grave.
3. A band of violent men:
The arrogant arise;
They seek my life, they have not set
The Lord before their eyes.
4. You, Lord, are slow to wrath,
Compassionate and true;
Turn to me and be merciful,
Give me your strength anew.
5. Show me your favor now,
That those who hate may see
And be ashamed because you, Lord,
Have helped and strengthened me.

From: *A New Metrical Psalter*

Tune: *St. Thomas (Williams)*

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12 – 25 (page 158 in New Testament)

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.

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 hope ²¹that 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 READING: Matthew 13:24–30, 36--43** (page 14 in New Testament)

Jesus tells a parable about the co-existence 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.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴He put before them 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.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY #786: *O Holy Spirit, Enter In

*** APOSTLE'S 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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Filled by the Spirit, let us join the whole people of God in Christ Jesus in praying for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Lord of the harvest, sow the seeds of your word throughout the world, that all your children grow into your kingdom. Use our hands to tend your garden, wherever it may be. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Send the summer winds to bring much-needed rain and blow the hope of what is unseen through your creation, that it be set free from decay to bear good fruit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of all nations, guide our leaders with your strength and wisdom as they search for common ground. Through your mercy show them the way to justice and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We live in a land of plenty, and still there are those without enough to eat. Give us generous hearts to those who are hungry. Bless the hands of those who work so that others might eat. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen to the cries of your people waiting patiently for your healing hand and comforting Spirit, especially, Tim, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Ease the sufferings of this present time and fill us with hope. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach your way, O Lord, to our congregation. Help us walk in your truth, grow together in your word, mirror your patience, treat one another with kindness, and sing your praises with undivided hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, you are the first and the last, gathering all those who have gone before us into one. Thank you for your steadfast love and for their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

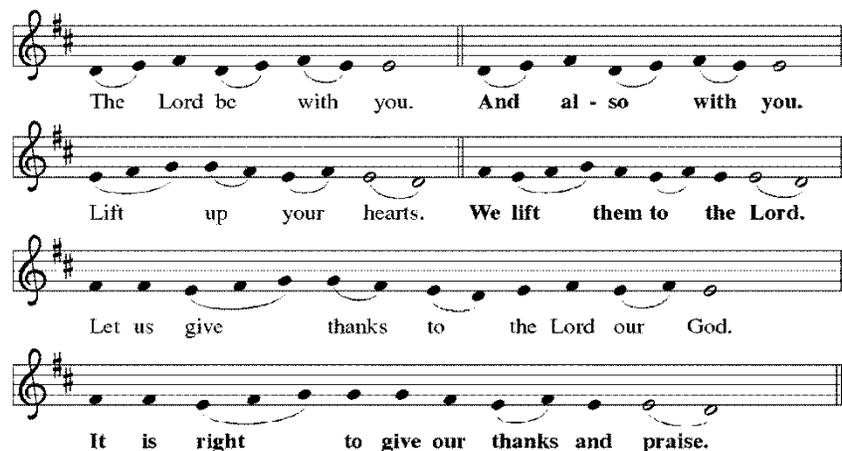
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

*DIALOGUE

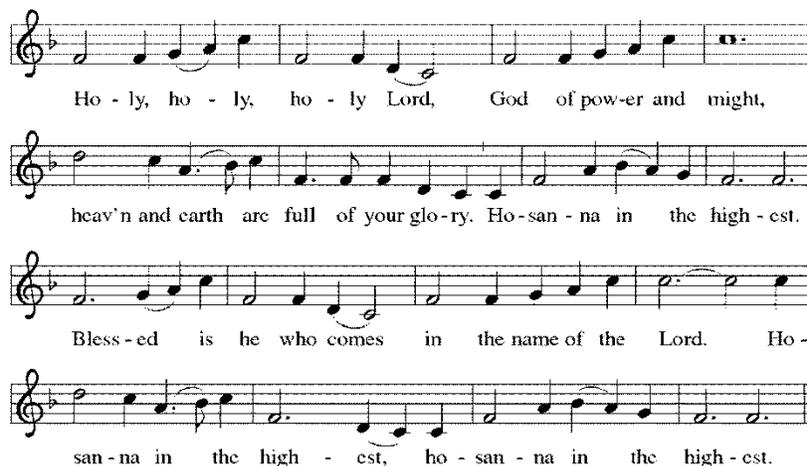


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Everyone who hungers, come to the table.
Eat what is good, that you may live.

COMMUNION

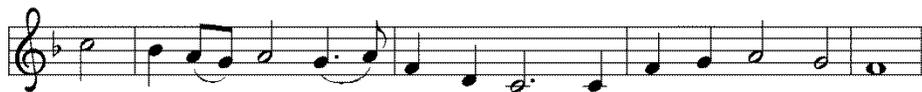
The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The inner ring of individual cups has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN #733: Great is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you
by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE #884: Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, Lord of heaven and earth,
that you have fed us in a way our hearts can understand,
with the saving body and blood of Jesus Christ.
Enliven us by your presence in this meal,
that we may be your presence in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

May God the sower
make you good and fertile soil.
May Christ the seed
bloom and grow in your words and actions.
May the fruitful Spirit
bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.
God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG #663: Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Trumpet Tune on 'Now Thank We All Our God' – arr. Michael Helman

The flowers this week are given by Martha & Jim Ward in memory of Martha's mother, Margaret Gurtner.

9:00 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte: Madison Cardinal

Lector: Valerie Cardinal

Usher: Cardinal

Attendance Last Week: 43

Attendance last year: 84

Weekly Budgeted Need : \$ 2,640.27

Last Week's Giving: \$ 3,356.00

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 71,287.27

Year to Date Receipts: \$ 80,741.70

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 64,815.67

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