



WEEDS AND
WHEAT

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Larimore, ND
July 23, 2023
8th Sunday after Pentecost

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made

Assembly: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: We praise and thank you for your amazing grace & life-giving power!

ALL: Let us worship and give praise to God!

*CONFESSION

Lord, we confess our lack of faith. We see a glimpse of what we out to be and we know we fall short of the goal. We desire faith that is solid and unchanging, yet we crumble under trials and temptations. We want to be strong, but we know our weakness. Our sinful condition strips us of any spiritual gain that we humanly devise. Lord, forgive us. Accept us as we are, unworthy for the task, yet gifted for Your purposes, Grant us Your gift of Faith.

*FORGIVENESS

Our God is a great God, He knows our needs for all areas of life. He knows our weakness and our unbelieving hearts. Yet, He loved us enough to die on a cross to provide forgiveness of our sin. Now the focus is not one the faith that we can muster, but on the great fits He gives daily as we trust Him. God has given us the gift of faith – faith for the moment...faith for every trial...faith for every temptation...faith for every difficult situation. Praise God for His gift of faith.

***GATHERING HYMN** *“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

- 1. Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in his bosom gather; Nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given;**
- 2. God his own doth tend and nourish, In his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them, In his mighty arms he bears them.**
- 3. Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord his children sever, Unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

4. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh, His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

***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

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?^[b] Let them tell us^[c] 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. *WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.*

PSALM: Psalm 86:8-17 (read responsively, verse by verse)

⁸There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. ⁹**All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.** ¹⁰For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. ¹¹**Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.** ¹²I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. ¹³**For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.** ¹⁴O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them. ¹⁵**But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.** ¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your maidservant. 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 8:18-25*

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^[a] 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. **WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “*My Jesus, I Love Thee*” vs.4

In mansions of glory and endless delight, I’ll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright; I’ll sing with the glittering crown on my brow, If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, ‘tis now.

P: The Gospel according to Matthew, the 10th chapter

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The Parable of the Weeds

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you

may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.”

Now to verse 36-43

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Jesus, Name Above All Names*”

- 1. Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord, Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.**
- 2. Jesus, loving shepherd Vine of the branches, Song of God Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor Lord of the universe, Light of the world.**
- 3. Jesus, Way of salvation, King of kings, Lord of Lords, the way the truth, and the Life, Mighty creator, my Savior and friend.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I have faith in God, in response to overwhelming love...I believe that God created me and all that I have, and has given to me gifts beyond measure...I have faith in Jesus, who emptied himself out of his love for me...I believe that Christ died on a cross for my sin, conquered death

and the power of evil, and was raised to life on the 3rd day. His death is mine, His resurrection is mine, new life is mine because of Jesus' words and work...I believe in the Holy Spirit in response to overwhelming love...I believe that the Holy Spirit is present here among us and lives within each person. The spirit continues to call people by the gospel, and creates and builds the church of Christ. Through the power of the Spirit I have power to stand in strength and against all adversity...I believe that Jesus is preparing a place for me and will come again to take each of us to be with Him. AMEN.

***OFFERING** *“Thank You, Lord”*

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul. Thank you, Lord, for making me whole; Thank you, Lord, for giving to me Thy great salvation so rich and free.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray, All good gifts come from you, dear Lord, and from these riches we bring this offering. Help us to use it for the furtherance of your purpose in this place, and for the benefit of those in need. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *“Just As I Am” vs.4*

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

***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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

May abundant grace and profound peace be multiplied to you in every way. May countless blessings chase and overtake you, and may you notice when they do. May God heal your heart, soul, mind, and body, and may you approach life with eternity in mind. May you know the wholeness God always intended for you, and may your faith be renewed. Amen

***SENDING HYMN** “*I Have the Joy*”

- 1. I have the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, *where?* Down in my heart, *where?* Down in my heart; I have the joy joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, *where?* Down in my heart to stay!**
- 2. I have the peace that passes understanding, down in my heart, *where?* Down in my heart, *where?* Down in my heart; I have the peace that passes understanding, down in my heart, *where?* Down in my heart to stay!**
- 3. I have the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart, *where?* Down in my heart, *where?* Down in my heart; I have the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart, *where?* Down in my heart to stay!**

***DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, be a warrior of prayer and a light of hope in a darkened world! **We will! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Welcome! We are glad you are with us today! If you are interested in joining our church, please contact Lori at 218-791-2671 or Julie at 701-741-5683. If you have an emergency, call Wayne Knudson (church president) at 218-779-3594 -or- Camilla Stover at 218-791-2678.

Our Savior's Mission Statement:

“Excited by faith, we are called to **serve all; gathered to **WORSHIP**, inspired to teach, **we are our Savior's!**”**

CALENDAR

Today, 7/23/2023—8th Sunday of Pentecos

9:00am—Worship—in the Fellowship Hall

10:00am—Fellowship

Next Sunday, 7/30/2023—9th Sunday of Pentecost

9:00am—Worship

10:00am—Fellowship

Every day:

An opportunity to show we are Christians by our love.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mission of the Month for: Jul-Aug: Kids Closet
- Noisy offering:
Collected on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month for the mission of the month(s).
- Gramma's Gang 2023 Fundraiser: Sunday, July 23rd; 11:30 – 1:30pm Living Faith Free Lutheran Church. (Donation for the MN/ND Alzheimer's Association); Tacos & Ice Cream

Serving this Sunday

Ushers: ??

Reader: Stacie Williams

Prayer: ??

Communion: N/A

Fellowship: M. Johnsons

Serving Next Sunday (7/30/23)

Ushers: ??—sign up on the clipboard

Reader: ??—sign up on the clipboard

Prayer: ??—sign up on the clipboard

Communion: N/A

Fellowship: Johnsons & Stovers

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Family of Pam Amundson (sister of Brian Welder), Walter James Amundson (Mary Amundson's great-grandson), Mark Sletten, Family of Gene Swanson, Ron Petsinger, Betty Olson, Family of Sandy & Clint Lein, Dillon Norman (USM), Pr. Rena Peterson, OSLC Call Committee, Cindy Olson, Bonnie Olson, Marv Jemtrud, David Barnett (relative of Robert Stover), Arlene Lilja, Donna Willoughby (daughter of Gordon Peterson), LaVonne Jacobson, David Sletten (cousin to Camilla Stover), Robbie Leake