

The Lutheran Church of St. Mark
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The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of Word and Sacrament

July 19, 2026

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 TO ALL WHO HAVE COME TO WORSHIP THE LORD TODAY!

Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.

*Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.*

**Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

*The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Land of Rest

Gilbert M. Martin

*We gather in the name of the Father and the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*CONFESSION

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.**

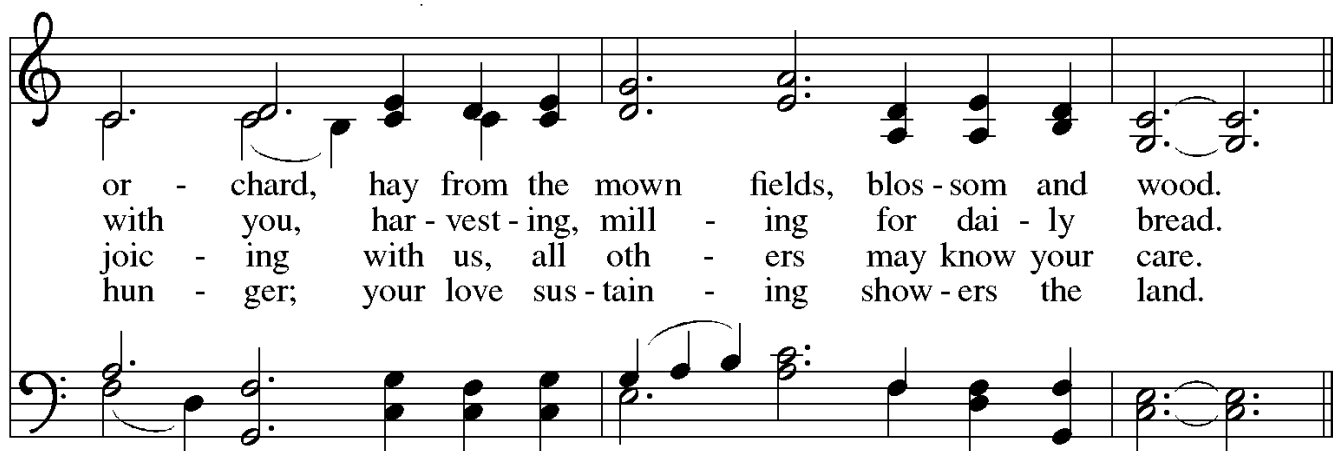
*GATHERING HYMN

Praise and thanksgiving

ELW 689

1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
 Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

*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

WISDOM OF SOLOMON 12:13,16-19

God's deeds of forgiveness and gift of hope indicate that God's faithful people must also show kindness. No other god cares for all people.

A reading from Wisdom of Solomon:

¹³ For neither is there any god besides you whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly, ¹⁶ For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. ¹⁷ For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. ¹⁸ Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge fairly, and with great forbearance you govern us, for you have power to act whenever you choose. ¹⁹ Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

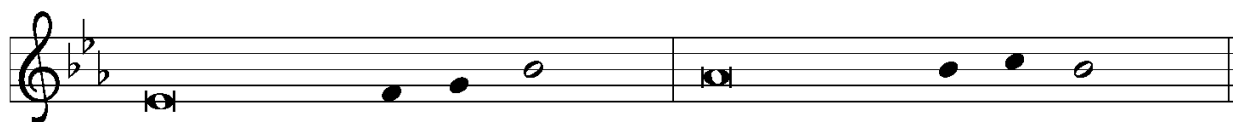
The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each R.

Refrain



Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth.

Tone



- ¹¹ Teach 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**
- 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 be- | fore their eyes.**
- ¹⁵ But 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.

A reading from Romans:

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

(sung twice)



Text: Traditional Muscogee Indian

Tune: Traditional Muscogee Indian; transcribed by Charles H. Webb, © 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House

*GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

When 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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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, ⁴² and 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!"

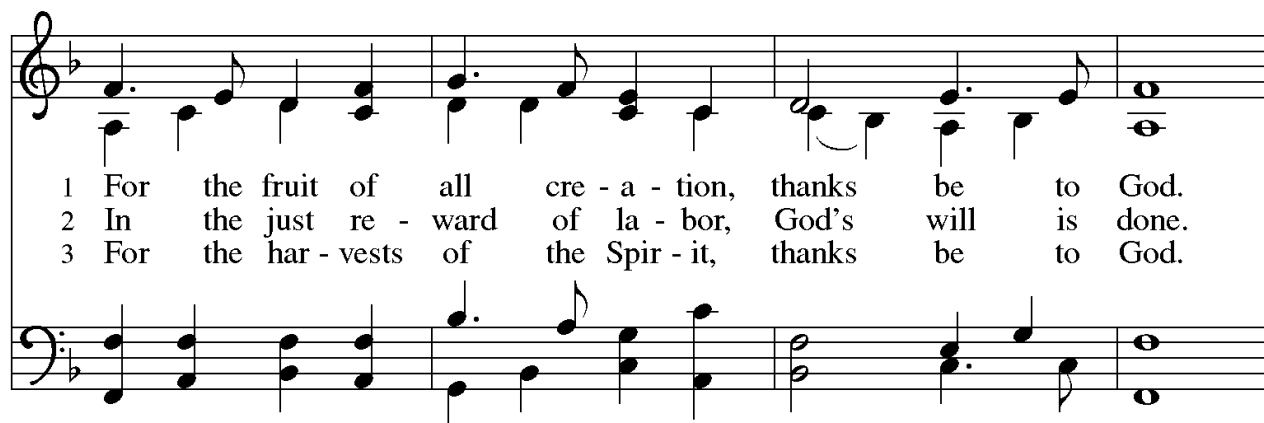
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

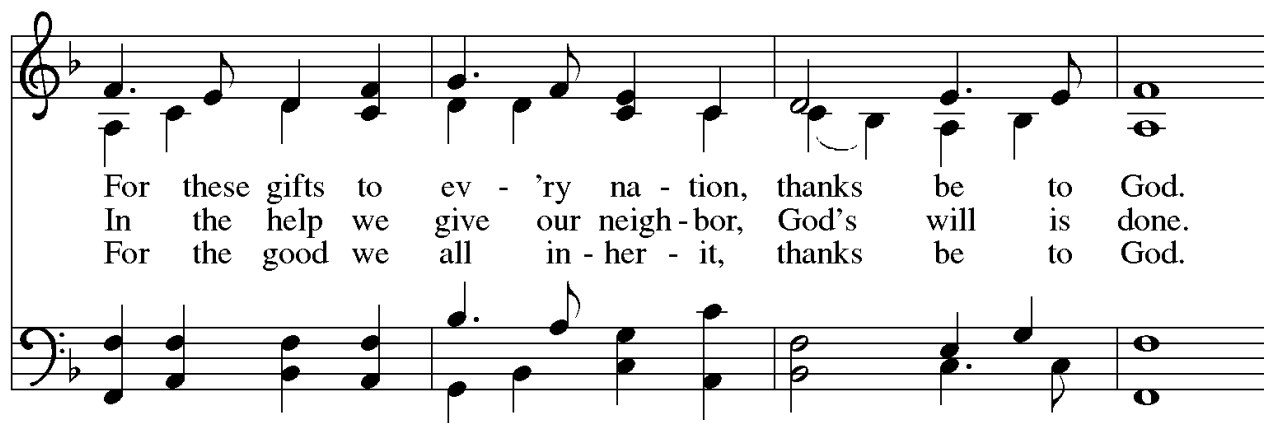
*HYMN OF THE DAY

For the fruit of all creation

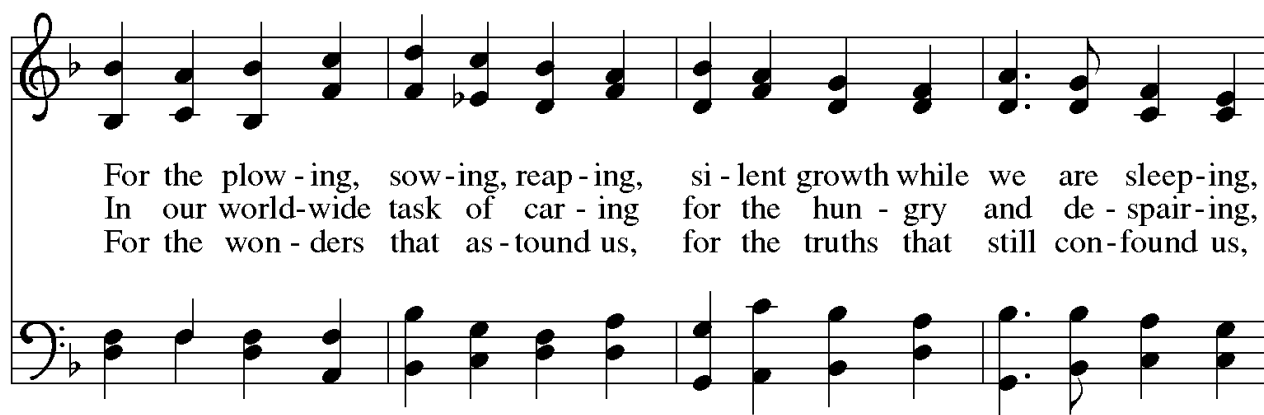
ELW 679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

OFFERTORY SOLO *Come, Ye Thankful People Come* George J. Elvey
Arranged by David Longroy

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

*PREFACE DIALOGUE

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.

*CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

*COMMUNION INVITATION

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God



☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

As the grains of wheat

ELW 465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were
gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from
all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

Those not receiving communion are invited to pray the following while communion is being distributed:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. When I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy. Amen.

*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

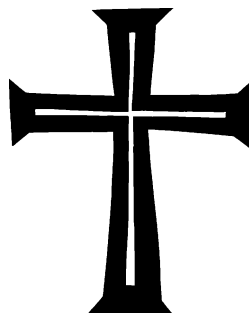
Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.



1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -
 2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,

in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je -
 guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it, cleansed

sus your Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your
 and con-formed un - to your will. As grain, once scat - tered on the

plea - sure, and giv'n us food for all our days, giv - ing in
 hill - sides, was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all

Christ the bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.
 lands your church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent., tr. F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: RENDEZ À DIEU, attr. Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–1561; arr. Claude Goudimel, 1505–1572, alt

Text © Church Pension Fund

*DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Postlude in E minor

Father Franciszek Walczyński

Thank you to James Bagni
for the beautiful music.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please join us for in-person community worship Thursday evenings at 7:00pm in the church lounge.
- Please sign up to sponsor altar flowers. There are still many slots available.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, July 19	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Deb's Team
Tuesday, July 21	6:00pm	Council & Staff Potluck
Thursday, July 23	7:00pm	In-Person Community Workshop
Sunday, July 26	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament led by Rev. Rebecca Bourret followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by GF & Friend



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