

19 July 2020
7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CONCORDIA

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
725 Truxton Drive, Kingsport, TN.

concondiakingsport.org/Facebook



Wheat and weeds
both grow together
...until *The Harvest*.
But Jesus preaches
forgiveness of sins to
all who repent and
believe in Him.
Matthew 13

COLLECT

*O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that,
ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here
and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

INTROIT. *Psalm 86:11-15*

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;* listen to my | plea for grace. **Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk | in your truth;* unite my heart to | fear your name.** I give thanks to you, O Lord
my God, with | my whole heart,* and I will glorify your name for- | ever. **For great is your steadfast
| love toward me;* you have delivered my soul from the depths | of Sheol.** O God, insolent men
have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men | seek my life,* and they do not set you be- | fore
them. **But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious,* slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love and | faithfulness.** Glory to the Father and | to the Son*and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen. Give ear, O LORD, | to my
prayer;* listen to my | plea for grace.

READINGS

Old Testament/Isaiah 44:6-8 Epistle/Romans 8:18-27 Gospel/Matthew 13:24-43
The Word of the Gospel Bestows the Righteousness of Christ and Brings Forth Faith

- The good Seed, which is “*the Son of Man,*” Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in “*the sons of the kingdom*” (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets “*both grow together until the harvest*” (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins.
- Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness, because He alone is “*the King of Israel and his Redeemer*” (Is. 44:6). Since all things are in His gracious care and keeping, “*fear not, nor be afraid*” (Is. 44:8).
- For “*the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God*” (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, “*the Spirit helps us in our weakness*” (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, “*the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us*” (Rom. 8:18).

STEWARDSHIP

**Rom. 8:18 – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not
worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”**

It is very easy to get caught up in the present and lose track of our ultimate destiny in the Kingdom of God. St. Paul encourages us to keep eternity in mind.

This certainly has an application to our support for the Gospel.

If we keep our focus on “the glory to be revealed,” we will see our tithes and offerings in a new light.

Sermon Notes

+ Seventh Sunday after Pentecost + 19 July 2020

Maddening Mixture of Good Seed and Weeds: Matthew 13:37-39

*He replied, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world;
and the good seed—these are the children of the kingdom.*

The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil.

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

Since the end of the age is not yet upon us – of that day there will be no doubt – we live, work and pray as those who believe that God can take even children of the evil one and make of them children of His good and gracious Kingdom.

1. **Two kinds of people are being planted in this world**
 - a. Children of the Kingdom
 - b. Children of the evil one
2. **How we live in this world has an impact for good or ill**
 - a. Frightening possibility of being pulled to the dark side: Saruman, Darth Vader et al.
 - b. Joyful possibility of coming to the light: C.S. Lewis "On Living in an Atomic Age."
3. **There is coming a Day of reckoning and ultimate accountability**
 - a. Weeds will be separated by holy angels
 - b. Wheat will be gathered into the Father's barn

Discipleship Leading to Evangelism

The Liturgy of Life – *"When Sunday Worship comes to an end, ... **the liturgy of the Church** goes into the world with us... through each unique vocation. We are Christ's people, standing in the midst of a broken world. As the Baptized Children of God, we bear witness in our words and lives to the Christ who dwells in us. Our lives testify that Christ's presence in the world transforms the culture and makes it new. To live in Christ is to bear witness that Jesus Christ is present in our world in His gifts. Christ is present in the world through us.... and He is present for the life of the world.*

Many people today want to know how to be a Christian. What they are really asking is how to live like Christ. The response: 'Be like Christ who lives in you!' But they will ask: 'What does this mean?'

The answer comes from Jesus' Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6):

'Love your enemies, be merciful, compassionate, forgive, and do works of charity.'

But they will ask: 'How is this done?' The answer:

- ***'Come to church and receive the gifts of Christ's in hearing the Law and the Gospel preached and sung in the liturgy... in feasting at His banquet in Holy Communion.***
- ***Remember your Baptism; repent of your sins and be forgiven and reborn ... ready to serve your God and ready to serve your neighbors and your family...who you can now love.***
- ***And then go out as the Baptized Children of God. Go out into the world and be what you have become in Christ.'***

*This is life in Christ. This is how we continue to tell the world its story about real life in Christ through our lives. **This is the liturgy of life!***

The Rev. John T. Pless

Prayer of the Church. Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. 19 July 2020

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, we are too quick to judge Your ways and too bold to presume upon Your wisdom. Grant us grace so that we may trust in Your Word and fulfill our baptismal vocation of worship, witness, prayer and works of mercy, both to our families and to our neighbors in need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Blessed Lord, we are stewards of Your creation, but we have often squandered its goodness and wasted its resources. Guide us to use wisely and for the benefit of all people the fruits of this good earth, and preserve its goodness for those to come. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we have been given new birth in Baptism. Help us to confess Your Son before the world though our many and various vocations, reflect the glory of Your kingdom to all people. Bless all pastors, missionaries and church workers, that they may be faithful in their callings. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, we enjoy great freedom and blessing in our land. Bless Donald, our president; the Congress of these United States; Bill, our governor; and all those who make, judge and administer laws in our land. Give them wisdom in their actions for the protection of life and livelihood. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we give You thanks for the gift of health, which we must never take for granted. Hear our prayers on behalf of the sick, the aged, the infirm, those who mourn and those near death. Grant them healing in accord with Your will and grace to sustain them in their need. Hear us especially for _____ . Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Lord, we too easily forget those in nursing homes, assisted living and the homebound. Give us grace so that we may bring them Your consolation and peace, and give them the aid and comfort of Your Word and our fellowship in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we are wounded by the sufferings of this life, and we need Your grace to sustain us in hope and equip us with patience. Give to us all that we need to pass through the day of trouble and be found faithful when Christ comes in His glory at the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gentle Lord, we ask You to visit the homes of Your people, that they may be places of blessing and love, where faith is nurtured and we learn to live out our new lives in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, hear us on behalf of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant that what we pray for, we may work toward, under the guidance of Your Holy Spirit, that at the Day of Judgment we may be found worthy to join the saints and enter into Your gift of eternal light and life forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymns

How Deep the Father's Love For Us	NewSong 54
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less	576
In Holy Conversation	722
Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide	585
O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near	599
Sent Forth by God's Blessing	643

Pray This Week for Brothers and Sisters at Concordia

Monday: Mark & Ashley Reese	Thursday: Randy Smith
Tuesday: Nick & Sarah Shaffer	Friday: Mike & Linda Starnes
Wednesday: Aaron & Veronica Sondergeld	Saturday: Ron & Pam Steiger

This Week at Concordia

Sunday, July 19	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Monday, July 20	1:00 p.m. Members-in-Touch
Tuesday, July 21	
Wednesday, July 22	7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast at Burger King on Clinchfield Street
August APEX items DUE!!	
Thursday, July 23	
Friday, July 24	3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Virtual "Making the Case Conference" in Fellowship Hall. Free and all welcome!
Saturday, July 25	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Virtual "Making the Case Conference" in Fellowship Hall. Free and all welcome!
Sunday, July 26	9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship Service