



**THE 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, LECTIONARY 16, JULY 19 2020**

*Welcome to worship! We are one family of faith even as we worship in-house and wherever we are sheltering in place. Let us gather together in heart and spirit, encouraging, praying and caring for one another.*

*It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? God presents no simple answers - both are present in this world wounded by sin. In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus teaches that both grow together until the harvest, and God's justice will bring God's dominion. With Paul, we long for that day when 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 until God's dominion comes.*

**GATHERING**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & THE PRELUDE: time for prayer and preparation.

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

Blessed be the Trinity, Father, Son + and Holy Spirit,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reforming God,

**You have promised to be with us and abundantly bless**

yet in fear we are divided.

**We confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
failing to believe that you provide enough for all.  
We close our hand to our neighbor,  
and use your good creation carelessly for our own benefit.**

**We place our hope in ourselves, yet our efforts fall short of your love  
and your children suffer.**

**By your grace, forgive us;  
through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, re-form us ;  
so that the world may know us by your love.**

**Amen.**

Jesus Christ was given to die for you,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins,  
Now, seek good, and not evil; love mercy.  
Encourage one another to acts of love  
as we await the fullness of the coming Kingdom.  
in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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.**



### *The Readings*

The first reading is from Isaiah, the 44<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>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.

Isaiah 44:6-8

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

### *Silence for Reflection*

The second reading is from Romans, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For 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!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and 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.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that 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. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. *Romans 8:12-25*

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

*The Gospel, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, is offered*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia. Teach me your way O LORD, **And I will walk in your truth Alleluia.***

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter! **Glory to you O Lord!**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>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?’ <sup>28</sup>He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>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.’ ”

<sup>36</sup>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.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and

the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

When we were baptized into Christ, we received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, that we would be made part of the Body of Christ and be strengthened in the Spirit and power to follow Christ. Before God, and one another, let us confess the faith of the Church in trust and confidence.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

Sustained by the promised hope of healing and new life, we join our voices and prayers with God's people in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your love for all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways (*regions and nations in conflict may be named*). Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities, even in the face of these times. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here we may offer the needs of our hearts in the silence after each petition*

Help us share the burdens of those weighed down by need, fear, abuse, and all those whose needs we bring before you:

all who need medical treatment from any and every cause,  
and those unable to access care...

all weighed down by fear and loss and grief...

families struggling and stressed to meet the needs of work and home...

those struggling and anxious for health in body, mind and finances....

Hear our needs, and the needs known only to You. Be our strength to meet the days ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

*Other petitions may be offered as there is need...*

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us (*especially*). Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Pause to share Peace and offer thanks for God's gifts that sustain and bless us. If you wish, offer thanks out loud for blessings received, something or someone for whom you are grateful. Offerings can be made online by going to the website [christpipersville.org](http://christpipersville.org), or using the QR code with your smartphone. Offerings can also be gathered and mailed.*



*Then continue:*

Let us pray. *Silence* God of goodness and growth,  
**all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

**Water and word, wine and bread:**

**these are signs of your abundant grace.**

**Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

*A Brief Silence*

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,  
for by your Word you made all things:  
you spoke light into darkness,  
called forth beauty from chaos,  
and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

**We give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel  
to tell of your wonderful gifts:  
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,  
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

**We give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,  
you speak to us and call us to witness:  
forgiveness through the cross,  
life to those entombed by death,  
the way of your self-giving love.  
For your Word of life, O God,  
**We give you thanks and praise.**

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**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.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Dwell in peace. Serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

Postlude

*We give thanks to God that we are able to gather where we are sheltering in place  
and in-house, and for your faithful support as we move forward serving one  
another and out community.*

POSTLUDE



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