



Sunday, July 19, 2020 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
Greendale, WI www.ssmelca.org

Introduction to the day:

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 - "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" arr. Michael Larkin

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: **We confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all,

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P: Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE - "Come and Fill Our Hearts" (*sing twice*)

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

B: 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 44:6-8

(Read by Dan Resterhouse)

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

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?
Let them tell us 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25*(Read by Dan Resterhouse)*

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] 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!”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE - “Groaning”

Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY - “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er will be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

APOSTLES' 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

L: Confident of God's care for us in the midst of the world's sufferings, we join together in the power of the Spirit to pray for the church, the earth, the world and all who are in need, responding to the words "Lord in your mercy" with the phrase "hear our prayer."

L: God of the church, we praise you for sowing the good seed of the gospel throughout the world, and we mourn that at this time many faith communities cannot assemble to nurture one another for growth in the faith. Tend your people; support bishops, pastors deacons, and lay leaders; give us strength through your word. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of earth, we praise you for a wondrous creation, and we mourn that many lands and seas are groaning for rebirth. Nurture our green spaces and national parks; send rain where there is drought. Show us how to care for your earth and its creatures. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of the nations, we praise you for the good that has been given us in this country, and we mourn that many people here are poor, and dispossessed, that we have allowed racism to distort our society, that violence breaks out in our land. Lead us to form communities in which all people are equal and where disputes are settled without violence. Save us from preserving a past that has been harmful to many. Bring an end to warfare around the world, and mend the torn fabric of humankind with your truth and mercy. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of humankind, we praise you for whatever health and happiness prevail, and we mourn that many people suffer. Each day thousands more contract the virus; renters are facing eviction; medical workers are exhausted; some of the sick have no access to health care; countless people are broken by sorrows. Open our hearts to your children who suffer in any way, and show us how to serve them. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of the seasons, we praise you for summertime, and we mourn that this year many hopes, and expectations are denied. Give relief to those who suffer from the heat. Protect travelers from infection. Guard our children. Give rest to those with no vacation time, hope to those who are unemployed, support to those with mental health challenges. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERTORY *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

C: Amen

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE - "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" arr. Michael Larkin

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KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Joyce Gagliano, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Richard Kucharski, Shirley Lieske, Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Ron Ropel, John Winter.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of
Joan Retzlaff
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil &
LaVerne Morgan
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff
Pastor Stan Hanna, father of Jeremy Hanna
Cher Mikkelsen, aunt of Jennifer Myszkowski
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother in law
of Barbara & Dan Davies
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman
Linda Radike, friend of Julie Herman
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob
Lieske
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters &
Stepdad of Lori Salas
Mike Derrick, nephew of Ron & Carole Ropel
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb
Davies
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant
Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly
Rosenstock

Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller
Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue
Herman
Cameo Abifarin, friend of Julie Herman
Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda
Johnson
Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend
of the Homeless
Judy Ventimiglia, friend of Shelly Rosenstock
Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan
Kowalewski
Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of
Karen Miller
Margaret Kamasinski, friend of Jeff Herman
Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne
Niese
Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Pastor Hartmut Barsnick, friend of SSM
Steve, son of Louise Becker
Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Herman Riedasch, father of Patti Winter
Diane Schauer, friend of Carol Manning
Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske
Richard Kurcharski, dad of Jenny Resterhouse