

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Don't Hurt the Wheat!

July 19 & 20, 2014

**AS WE GATHER** While we are awaiting transfer to the heavenly abodes of the Church Triumphant, we need strength to help us deal with the ongoing problems of the Church Militant. Here on earth we are beset with so many problems that we are tempted to weed out the troublemakers. But Jesus teaches that just as weeds and wheat plants look similar at first, we cannot truly tell who is serving Christ and who is opposed to Him. We dare not hurt the wheat in an effort to get rid of those who seem to be "weedy" Christians! We have to wait until the harvest, and then it is up to the reapers (the angels) to do the separating, not us. We are not to judge anyway; through Isaiah, God reminds us that He is the only God. In the mean time (these mean times), although we do not know just what to pray for, fortunately, by the grace of God, the Spirit "intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

### WELCOME

*"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17*

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### + PREPARATION +

### OPENING HYMN #892 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest home.  
  
All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto His praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we Wholesome grain and pure may be.  
  
For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His harvest home,  
From His field shall in that day All offenses purge away,  
Give His angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store In His garner evermore.  
  
Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, In Thy garner to abide;  
Come with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

(Rise)

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**People: How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**

Pastor: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

**People: To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Because we cannot fully understand God, we are prone to question His judgments and wonder why He allows evil people to oppose Christ's Church from without and from within. But none of us is without error. Let us reflect on our own sinful human condition as we come into the presence of the Almighty God. Through Isaiah the Lord declared, "I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god."

**People: We confess that we have allowed ourselves, our friends, and the things around us to determine our actions; they have become as gods to us. We have not loved you, heavenly Father, with all our heart, mind, and strength. Forgive us.**

Pastor: Paul wrote that "we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us."

**People: We confess that in our pride we have thought we knew what was good for us, and when we did not receive it, doubted that you, O Holy Spirit, had even heard our prayer. Forgive us.**

Pastor: In His parable about the wheat and weeds, Jesus explained that in the day of judgment "all causes of sin and all law-breakers" will be sent to a place of "weeping and gnashing of teeth."

**People: We confess that we have judged the people around us, hurting many in the process and failing to see our own faults and failures. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, nor have we trusted your plans, Lord Jesus. Forgive us.**

Pastor: God's calming word through Isaiah was, "Fear not, nor be afraid." Even while we stumble, the promise is that "the Spirit helps us in our weakness." In the End we who have been made righteous by Christ's sacrifice for us shall be gathered as wheat into God's eternal harvest. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE #789 "Praise and Thanksgiving"**

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer For all things living, Created good:  
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,  
Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You  
That with our neighbor We may be fed.

Sowing or tilling, We would work with You, Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

Father, providing Food for Your children,  
By Your wise guiding Teach us to share

One with another, So that, rejoicing With us, all others May know Your care.

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment,

**People: we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy hereafter;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Be seated)

**+ WORD +**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 44:6–8* (The Lord, our Redeemer, is the only God.)

"This is what the Lord says - Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my

ancient people, and what is yet to come - yes, let him foretell what will come. Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

**EPISTLE** *Romans 8:18–27* (The Spirit intercedes even when words fail us.)

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

(Rise)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43* (The parable of the wheat and weeds)

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "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?' " 'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' " 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. 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.' " 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." He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire,

so it will be at the end of the age. 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. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

(Be seated)

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### SERMON HYMN #781 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

We give Thee but Thine own Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blesses us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,  
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.

To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,  
To tend the lone and fatherless Is angels' work below.

The captive to release, To God the lost to bring,  
To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

#### SERMON "Weeds in the Wheat Field" Matthew 13:24-30, 35-43

(Rise)

**APOSTLES' CREED** (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Lord, we praise you and acknowledge that you are the Lord of hosts and our Redeemer. You have redeemed us, claimed us, and forgiven us by the sacrifice of your only-begotten Son upon the cross.

**People:** **We thank you that you have redeemed people of all tribes and nations; and we pray that we might be bold witnesses of your Gospel until the close of the age.**

**Pastor:** Lord of heaven and earth, we give thanks to you that your Son, Jesus Christ, died to redeem the world and restore creation. Until the time when creation's groanings are replaced by new life and restoration to paradise, grant that we might be good stewards of all that you have made.

**People:** **Help us to neither worship nor waste your creation, but lead us to make wise and diligent use of all that you provide, in service to you and our neighbor.**

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, we commend to you those who endure infirmity and weakness especially Marion, Pastor Hinz, Charles, Nancy, Gilberte, Laura, Jack, Ashley, Mark, Richard, Susan, Virginia, Rosalie, Dorothy, Ruth, Warren, Dorothy and Sarah. Deliver them according to Your will.

**People:** **Strengthen and preserve their faith, that they might rejoice that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us.**

**Pastor:** O Lord of hosts, the First and the Last, we give thanks to you that you adopt us as sons in the waters of Holy Baptism. We rejoice with the Hurst family as Isaac is baptized into Christ. Grant him and his family to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.

**People:** **Remember also those who endure the afflictions of old age. Preserve them from despair, and grant them patient longing for the day of the redemption of their bodies.**

Pastor: Almighty God, we give thanks to you for people who are your instruments of compassion. Bless all who serve the elderly in retirement centers, memory units and nursing facilities, as well as those who care for ailing parents in their homes.

**People: Grant that we, too, might be your hands and feet and voices to provide comfort and company to those who are lonely and alone.**

Pastor: Lord of all eternity, we pray for those who grieve at the death of a loved one. And especially this day we remember Jeff & Beth Haas.

**People: Grant them comfort in the face of grief, peace in the midst of sorrow, and hope to sustain them in this difficult time.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, preserve us in the hope of things unseen. Until we see your Son in glory, grant that we might receive Him in your Holy Supper with hearts free from pride, presumption or any other sin that would leave us guilty of His body and blood.

**People: May we humbly rejoice in His real presence in His supper for the forgiveness of our sins, life and salvation.**

Pastor: We give thanks to you, O Lord, for your faithfulness to all the saints who have gone before us, whom you kept in grace and faith.

**People: For the sake of Jesus Christ, preserve us in the same, so that with them we might shine like the sun in your kingdom forever.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as you created Eve that Adam should not be alone, and the gift of children to fill the earth, so we join Frank & Jean and Henry & Eleanor in celebrating their wedding anniversaries.

**People: Grant them, and all families, joy and peace, blessing and faith in the months and years to come.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

#### WORDS OF OUR LORD

#### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

**People: Amen.**

#### AGNUS DEI #550

#### "Lamb of God"

Stanzas 1 & 3

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

**Refrain O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!  
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*  
(Be seated)

**DISTRIBUTION** Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

#### HYMN #637 "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,  
And drink the holy blood for you out-poured;  
Offered was He for greatest and for least,  
Himself the victim and himself the priest.

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
To all believers life eternal yields;  
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,  
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

#### HYMN #915 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

Today your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been.  
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today your gate is open, And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav'n.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without you When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

**HYMN #621 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,  
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears a way.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

**COMMON DISMISSAL**

(Rise)

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE "Thank the Lord"**

Thank the Lord and sing His praise, Tell the world what He has done.

Let each one who seeks the Lord Proudly go and bear His name.

He recalls His promises, Leads His people forth in joy,

Singing thanks and praising Him, Alleluia Allelu.

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**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us  
through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you  
would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in  
fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be and abide with you, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN #923 "Almighty Father, Bless the Word"**

Almighty Father, bless the Word Which through your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!

We praise you for the means of grace As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshipped here May all at last in heav'n appear.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Seminarian Brad Akey

Laurel Privatt, John Ficken

Jennifer Moyle, Elena Gonzalez-Clark

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller