



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton WI
9:00 AM
July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Inviting People to Journey with Christ's
Family In Spreading God's Love and Mercy

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.

**Indicates people should stand as they are able.
Welcome and Announcements*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Hymn

"Jesus, We Are Gathered"

ELW#529 x2

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity ✠, one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

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.

Hymn

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

ELW #693

PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN

Dear Lord Jesus;

We lift to you our children and grandchildren. We ask that your spirit

will dwell with them according to your will, that they will grow in the knowledge of you and know they are dearly loved by you. We pray for your protection from deception by the evil one and his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning your direction for them. We also pray for all children throughout the world that you will keep them in your loving care. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

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.

A reading from Isaiah 44:6-8

- ⁶ 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.
- ⁷ 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.
- ⁸ 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.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86:11-17

- ¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
- ¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**
- 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 before their eyes.**
- ¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
- ¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mercy 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 comforted me.**

SECOND READING

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.

We ask that all members join the Women of ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning, and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley, Aria & Hudson Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes, Maevis Shock; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, Emma, Bryce, Marah, Bria, Ava, Katie & Benjamin Gruen; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Niedfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Franklin & Douglas Wides; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb, Elizabeth Wildes; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon & Ellory Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson & Duke Sebranek, Violet Ford, Hunter and Jaxson Puhl; Eason Kelbel; Cole, Caleb & Connor Redding; Luke & Joelle Kroeger; Peyton Oelson, Greyson Resop; Dakotah Adams; Kendall & Kinsley Christopherson, Hudson Birkholz; Alayna, Alivia & Levi Wyttenbach; Brooke, Claire, Grace & Bree Olson; Kaisley, Kinley, Colston Thayer; Dominic Young; Avilynn McNamer; Ayla Arndt; Lainey Myers; Rylan & Tucker McCarthy; Brynlee Jones.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for children throughout the world that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

A reading from Romans 8:12-25

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

ELW p. 205

GOSPEL READING

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 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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 an-

are 5:30—8:00 pm. We are using the ELCA World Hunger VBS program, “At the Table”. Children 4 years old through those who have completed 7th grade are welcome to attend. We invite all children in our community to attend. Feel free to extend an invitation to your friends and neighbors children.

We will be placing sign-up sheets for snacks next Sunday. We are also In need of helpers, so let Justin know if you would be available to help.

Carillon

The carillon needed a repair but is now back and will play at Noon and 6:00 pm provided Nalani remembers to program it. If you would like to learn and help with the programming, let her know.

Information Update

We seem to be out of date in our membership records, particularly with telephone numbers. We’ve placed forms for completion in the hymn book rack. Please list ALL phones in your household and the primary user of each. Drop it on the piano after completion. Thanks.

Rally Day

Remember when we had a picnic and played games in the park when summer break was over and Sunday school was back in session each year? Well, we’re going to that on September 13 this year. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Those Serving Today

Ministers: All God’s People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Readers: Barb Bever; Altar: Dixie & Leonard Arndt: Communion Servers; Volunteers

Our Prayers

Linda, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Marilyn O’Rourke, Larry Arndt, Nick Evans, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon Fronk, Brian, Ben Bender, Darlene Diekrager, Jack Arndt, Diane Hornburger, Mike Escutia, Daniel Paulson, Marie Jacobson, Lenora Martin, Jenny Simpson Erickson, Linda Martin, Andy Martin, John Arzt

CALENDAR

Sun., July 19	Worship	9:00 am
	Noisy Offering	
	Birthday & Anniversary Reception	
Sun., July 26	Council Meeting	10:00 am
	Hymn Sing	9:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hymn Sing– July 26

We have placed hymn request sheets in the pews. Do you have a favorite hymn you would like to sing next week? Please complete and put your request on the piano as you leave today. The hymn DOES NOT need to be in the Lutheran hymnal.

Vacation Bible School

We will hold VBS on Monday July 27 through Thursday July 30. The times

gels, 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.**

Sermon

Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn **“Praise and Thanksgiving”** **ELW #689**

***APOSTLE’S 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** (God of grace, **(hear our prayer.)**)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Offering Hymn

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

1. 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.
2. And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

Prayer after Offering

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Words of Institution

LORD’S PRAYER

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

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!
Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.

Distribution

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.

Blessing

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

Amen.

Hymn

“For the Fruit of all Creation”

ELW #679

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.