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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2020



So It Will Be at the Close of the Age

Matthew 13:40

Preparing for Divine Service

You've taken your seat and greeted fellow worshipers. Now is a good time to prepare for God's action in your life by setting aside the busy-ness and distractions of everyday life.

- In the front section of the hymnal, read through today's appointed psalm: **PSALM 119:57-64**
- Review today's Scripture readings in the bulletin
- Focus on the Lord in prayer. Sample prayers are on the inside front cover of the hymnal, or feel free to use our usual pre-service prayer:

Prayer before Worship

O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

*Please feel free to participate further in this modified service
by reading aloud the lines in bold marked for congregational participation*

Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

† Confession†

P Give ear, O Lord, to the prayers of Your people, and listen to their cry for mercy.

C **You, O Lord, are a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.**

Silence for self-examination

P Lord of mercy,

C **we have an abundance of sin. But in You there is the fullness of righteousness and an over-abundance of mercy. We are poor sinners whose thoughts, words, and deeds betray our weakness and death. You, O Lord, are gracious and merciful and, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, You have saved us by His blood. Give to us true repentance so that we know Your forgiveness and the comfort of a clear conscience. Give us also hearts made new by Your grace, so that we love You above all things and our neighbors as ourselves and, by Your Holy Spirit, do what is pleasing in Your sight. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

(In Service Absolution)

P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.

C **And also with you.**

† Service of the Word †

Introit

Ps. 86:11–15; antiphon: Ps. 86:6



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 be 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.
Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk | in your truth;*
unite my heart to | fear your name.

Kyrie



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Steadfast Lord, Your promises never fail us. Salvation is found in You alone.

C **Make our hearts stronger to trust in Your mercy, build our courage in the face of doubt and fear, and let us never surrender our hope and faith to unbelief;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



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



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather 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 came to 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 is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day	“Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”	LSB 577
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Sermon **“Acting Like Wheat”** *Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43*

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Closing Collect

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, You have redeemed Your people from all our enemies.

C **Banish fear from us so that we can live in Your peace, resting our days and all eternity on the strength of Your love and the hope of Your salvation;**

P through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give
you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn	“Father, We Thank Thee”	LSB 652
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Sending

P Go in Peace; serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

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