**Seventh Sunday After Pentecost Worship**

*For music performed by Deb & Ben please see the links in the description box below the YouTube video or visit the Sermons page of the church website. Lyrics for the music can be found at the end of this worship liturgy.*

**☩** indicates you are invited to make the sign of the cross.

Congregation speaks the **Bold** text.

Opening

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

whose steadfast love is everlasting,

whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Holy 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**.

Word

First Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

*What is the Wisdom of Solomon? It is one of the seven Deuterocanonical books listed in some Bibles. Sometimes readings from these books come up in the Revised Common Lectionary, list of readings used by many churches for Sunday worship. These books are not within the 66 books of the canon of Scripture. They are, however, very closely related to the books in the canon. In some churches there is a very ancient tradition of reading from these books on Sunday alongside the canonical books. Luther himself recommended the study of these books.*

13 For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly; 16 For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. 17 For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. 18 Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. 19 Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 86:11-17 (read in unison)

**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: Romans 8:12-25

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, 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 have 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, in fact, we 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 bondage 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 in labor pains until now; 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 is seen? 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 Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.

**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 angels, 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.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

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.**

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into our world. 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 intentions.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of all space and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Help us your disciples to responsibly care for your good creation and to teach others to care for it.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach us your ways of justice and mercy, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by violence, warfare, greed, and selfishness. Help leaders to be servants of others willing to give up privilege for the sake of the persecuted. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way. Especially we pray for those experiencing any kind of abuse, those who struggle with depression or suicidal thoughts, and all those who continue to be sickened by the Covid 19 virus.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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. Keep us strong in faith, and gather us with them on the day of salvation.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Offering

*Normally during this time in worship, we would now receive the offering. Thank you to our electronic givers and all those who have lovingly continued to send in your offerings so the missions and ministries of the church can continue. LCS mail is checked several times a week so offering checks made out to LCS can be mailed in and will be safely collected and deposited.*

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together as our Lord Jesus taught us to pray saying…

**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.**

Benediction

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God**.

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