

Family Worship for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – July 19, 2020

Leader / Response

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the (+)Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.** (*Ps 124:8*)

If you kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand before you?

But with you is forgiveness; therefore, you are adored. (*Ps130:3-4*)

As we gather to hear God's Word, let us open our hearts to God and confess our sins, trusting in his infinite mercy for forgiveness and asking for his Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.

Almighty God, have mercy on me, hear this my confession, forgive all my sins, and renew me by your Holy Spirit for right living. (*Silent confession*)

In Holy Baptism our merciful God has declared us to be his royal children and forgives our sins for Jesus' sake, our risen Savior and Lord. Give praise now to the Lord of heaven and earth and live joyfully as his witnesses in the world. **Amen**

PSALM OF PRAISE – PSALM 119:57-64

⁵⁷You only are my portion, O Lord; I have promised to keep your words.

⁵⁸**I entreat you with all my heart, be merciful to me according to your promise.**

⁵⁹I have considered my ways and turned my feet toward your decrees.

⁶⁰**I hasten and do not tarry to keep your commandments.**

⁶¹Though the cords of the wicked entangle me, I do not forget your law.

⁶²**At midnight I will rise to give you thanks, because of your righteous judgments.**

⁶³I am a companion of all who fear you and of those who keep your commandments.

⁶⁴**The earth, O Lord, is full of your love; instruct me in your statutes.**

HYMN [Great Is Thy Faithfulness](#) (*With Lyrics*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants that you may hear our petitions.

In all things, help us to ask for what will please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 44:6-8

SECOND READING – Romans 8:18-27

GOSPEL VERSE (*Spoken/Sung; Stand for Gospel Reading if you can*)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel from St. Matthew, chapter 13. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

HYMN [Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound](#) (*With Lyrics*)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERING PRESENTATION *(Spoken; LBW #486, st.1)*

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart, And make me love you as I ought to love.**

PRAYERS *(See Prayer Sheet)*

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING *(Romans 15:13)*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

CLOSING HYMN [Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing](#) *(With Lyrics)*

EXTRA

[Pastor Dave: Fill the Tank](#)

[Parable of the Wheat and Weeds](#) *(Children's Message)*

READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

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 him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

Second 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 corruption 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.

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

²⁴Jesus put another parable before {the disciples}, 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 sons 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 end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end 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."

PRAYERS

Lord God, you alone are God who tells of things to come and orders all things in accordance with your gracious Will. Help us in this age of uncertainty to put our trust in you, our Rock and Redeemer. Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

You have promised, O God, that your Holy Spirit will pray for us in our weakness. In the darkest times of our lives, remind us that you are a God who keeps his promises and who knows by your Spirit's ministry the depth and fullness of our human pain and fear. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Sow in our hearts, gracious Father, the good seed of your kingdom that in our lives a righteous harvest of good words and deeds may grow. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Be with your church, Sovereign Lord, and protect it in times of trouble and disease. Use us to be your hands for works of mercy and your mouth for proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for our nation and its leaders. Raise up those who will lead by righteous example and restrain those who would lead us to destruction. As American people, help us to reaffirm what is good in our national story and prick our conscience to put away everything that is evil. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for all those who have become frail by age, those who need constant care, and those who may be homebound. Bless them and every caregiver who serves them with gifts of your grace and love. Especially we pray for: Audrey, Helen, Sarah, Dorothy, Betty, Charles, Virginia, Thomas and Keith. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for those struggling to obtain their daily bread. Through economic activity and government support, clothe, shelter and feed all people, the just and the unjust, that they may honor you and give you thanks. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our pray for Shirley Hogan and Cathy Conaway and spare their lives as they battle the Corona Virus. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear our prayer for continued healing in the lives of Jimmy Helmly, Ann Reiser, Rick Boyd, Don Hasty, Pam Moore, Hiland & Rye, Mary Jane Duff, Robie Hester, Amy Holcomb, Charles DiSalvo, Eddie Helmey, Jason Pridgen, JW Porter, Sheila Saxon, and Izzy Wilkins. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer.**

Hear the prayers we now offer silently from our hearts....(moment of silence)

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we have prayed, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayers for July 19, 2020

Prayers for Healing, Recovery, Wholeness, Divine Help

Shirley Hogan hospitalized with Covid 19 (K. Warnell, 7.19.2020)
Jimmy Helmly, recovering from severe gastritis (J. Helmly, 7.19.2020)
Cathy Conaway, hospitalized with Covid 19 (K. Warnell, 7.19.2020)
Keith Cornell, paralysis and due for surgery (J. Helmly, 7.19.2020)
Ann Reiser, undergoing cancer treatments (M. Reiser, 6.28.2020)
Rick Boyd, multiple health problems (C. Boyd, 6.21.2020)
Don Hasty undergoing cancer treatments (D. Vorel, 6.18.2020)
Pam Moore, surgery after a bad fall (B. Helmly, 6.13.2020)
Hiland & Rye, life problems (R. Stephenson, 6.7.2020)
Mary Jane Duff, hospitalized for heart problems (K. Hall, 6.7.2020)
Robie Hester, recovering from bypass surgery (M. Reiser, 5.31.20)
Amy Holcomb, health (S. Hobbs, 5.31.20)
Charles DiSalvo, hospitalized at Memorial. (K. Disalvo, 5.31.20)
Eddie Helmey, Covid-19 diagnosis (G. Helmey & A. Lowe, 5.24)
Jason Pridgen, liver troubles, friend of Betty Robinson (5.17.2020)
JW Porter, multiple health problems, cousin of Brenda Dasher (5.17.2020)
Sheila Saxon, hospitalized with blood problems (Aunt to Karen Hall, 5.17)
Izzy Wilkins, had a tumor removed from her stomach (friend of Halls, 5.17)
Clyde Johnson, pneumonia (Father of Natalie M, 5.10)
Children and Parents in families that are stressed to breaking points of violence and despair (5.3)

Prayers for Comfort in Bereavement

Bobby Exley and family on death of daughter, Teresa (J. Arnsdorff, 6.7.2020)
Stacey York and family upon death of her mother Annette (A. Terry, 6.6.2020)
Family of Franklin Davis killed in vehicle accident on Zittrouer Rd (S. White, 5.17.2020)
Family of Karen Hall's Great Aunt, Katherine who went to be with the Lord. (5.17.2020)
Family of Laura Brown (S. Smith, 4.20)
Family of Rosemary Atkinson (Dot Zipperer's Sister, 4.19)

Military, Fire, Law Enforcement Personnel

Fire: Kenny Whitten, Jimmy Thompson; Law Enforcement: Warren Blanton
Military: Trent Zeigler, Christopher Zeigler(C.Zeigler); Michael Hubbard(A.M.Hubbard); Stephen Strickland(B. Dasher)

Long Term Support

Audrey Zipperer(Lakeview Manor); Helen Zeigler (Eff Care Center); Sarah Smith (Home); Dorothy Zipperer; Betty Greenwood (Home), Charles & Virginia DiSalvo(Home); Keith Cornell (Paralysis;Helmly); Clyde Johnson (Home;Muthersbaugh); Thomas Owens (Home;Garner)

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

“Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest . . .’” (Matthew 13:28-30)

Our churches are far from pure because they are full of sinners like us. But there are differences among sinners. Some sinners are believers while others are not. Thus, the state of the church as we experience it is mixed.

For a church that is focused upon discipleship and evangelism, this is a good thing. We truly hope that unbelievers will attend our churches so that God may touch them through his Word. There is no problem with overt unbelievers attending our churches. The problems come when covert unbelievers sow strife and dissension among us.

Jesus says that our situation is like a wheat field into which an enemy has sown some weeds. As the plants grow up, the wheat and the weeds exist side-by-side in the same field. This leaves the farmer with two bad options. Either he can leave the weeds in place and allow them to hamper the growth of the wheat. Or he can pluck the weeds out and uproot the wheat along with them. Of these two options, leaving the weeds in place is the lesser evil.

We generally follow this prudent course in our churches. We don't excommunicate people for little things. After all, within the church the lives of believers and unbelievers are intertwined, just like the wheat and the weeds in the field. Accordingly, when we remove a bad actor, we may well uproot many other people at the same time. Thus, excommunication is an option that we use only in extreme cases where toleration places the church in greater danger than removal. But this does not mean that we should ignore bad behavior. We may lovingly confront, reprove, and correct others (2 Timothy 3:16). Jesus gives us a process for doing precisely this (Matthew 18:15-18). When we do this lovingly, we not only seek to change bad behavior, but we also seek to promote the conversion and/or spiritual growth of the perpetrator. After all, we are all weeds by nature, but God is in the business of turning pernicious weeds into bountiful wheat! Prayer: Lord, give us the courage and the wisdom to handle conflict in a way that unifies and strengthens your church. Amen.

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Fill the Tank (of Compassion) - Pastor Dave

The compassion of Jesus for a lost and dying world compelled him to go to the cross to confront and defeat the powers of sin, death and the devil. It was compassion that he felt toward the harassed crowds of Israel during his earthly ministry (Mt. 9:35-38) and for which he asked that the church pray to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers to go into the field. As we look ahead this year to engaging the harvest fields of Effingham, here are four suggestions to help us begin filling our tanks with Christ's compassion.

- 1) Set an alarm for 12noon on your phone/watch. Say a short prayer asking for God to fill you with divine compassion and to send laborers into the harvest.
- 2) For those who like to blog/write/express themselves, please feel free to write out prayer petitions around the harvest/compassion theme and mail them to blc.rincon@gmail.com. Pastor will use them on Sundays during the Prayers of the Church.
- 3) Evangelism Committee will be running a children's Art Contest, kicking off on Sunday School Promotion Sunday, August 9. Details to follow...
- 4) Evangelism Committee will be sponsoring a congregational Prayer Vigil before we gather for our congregational planning meeting on Sept. 19. Details to follow...

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

Find the 45 bold words from Matthew 13:36-43 (ESV)

G E N I H S K N R D L R O W W
N V E Q L F I I G F E T N T R
I I J E I A G D N N A G F F E Z
H L G R L H N I D G I T A E H
S N E P T U S S E P D P H W L
A S X E S F D C W Z E O E E A
N E O D D I W I O R L H M E R
G U O N F E O P S I H A A D W
S O T I S R R L V Y I R N S N
G H E A R Y C E P Q M V T R I
Z L D N E S S D S H O L E T A S
D E R E W S N A N T E S N E W
P A R A B L E E C T A T O E O
E C A N R U F C H Y I G T N S
B U R N E D T H R O W S E E D

Then 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**.” He answered, “The one who **sows the good seed** is the **Son of Man**. The field is the **world**, and the good seed is the **sons of the kingdom**. The weeds are the **sons of the evil one**, and the **enemy** who sowed them is the **devil**. The **harvest** is the **end of the age**, and the **reapers** are **angels**. Just as the weeds are **gathered** and **burned** with **fire**, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will **send** his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of **sin** and all law-breakers, and **throw** them into the **fiery furnace**. In that place 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**.”

Eager Longing

Find the 29 bold words from Romans 8:18-21, 24-25 (ESV).

S E B S W R J Y U K N U S R T
Y G V G N I L A E V E R T O W
M X N N A G L O R Y Y X R N Y
N G N I G N O L H I C N K G E
J C O R R U P T I O N N O W L
E K P A W E T P N N P D X O N
N F N P T A F S A N G E V R X
E R O M I F I F U T I L I T Y
R E I O M D I T U D I A Y H W
D E T C E J B U S S S E T Y Y
L D A R M Q I P A N N V N B I
I O E G A D N O B O A E W C O
H M R V E D T N E S E R P O E
C P C S A R A U F S B N U A O
P C P L G S J J N Y T G E K O

For I consider that the **sufferings** of this **present time** are not **worth comparing** with the **glory** that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with **eager longing** for the revealing of the **sons of God**. For the creation was **subjected** to **futility**, not **willingly**, but because of him who subjected it, in **hope** that the creation itself will be **set free** from its **bondage** to **corruption** and **obtain** the **freedom** of the glory of the **children of God**. For in this hope we were **saved**. Now hope that is **seen** is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with **patience**.