

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 19th, 2026

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.



LIVING FAITH
LUTHERAN

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Council Secretary: Kay Michaelson 712-540-5368
Pastor Paige McGrath: pastor@livingfaithlemars.com

712-541-3782 | www.livingfaithlemars.com

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A BLESSING ON CLIMATE CARE

From Meta Herrick Carlson's "Speak It Plain"

This blessing... without reverence for God and our grandchildren.

Creative world,
**draw us out of ourselves and renew our love for you,
so that we would see with new eyes the generations of making,
so that we would learn to be tender and generous,
so that we would feel deeply our connections in this life
and [renew our love for] our Maker, who desires this sacrifice
rather than the whole earth as a burnt offering.
Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 693

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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

FIRST READING: 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 86:11-17

Please read responsively.

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.

Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, [siblings], 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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, Whose Word Well-Planted

ACS 975

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 Pontious 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

O God, We Call

ACS 1075

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation.
Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now
to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

...Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

...Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

...all glory and honor is your, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 465 & 679

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine, our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

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

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

ELW 689

Praise and Thanksgiving

SENDING

Go in peace. Grow together.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you, worship leaders!

Greeter/Usher: Tim Kass

Accompanist: Mike Rathke

Reader: Yvonne Law

Communion Assistant: Bailey Quanbeck

Altar Guild: Kay Michaelson

Livestream: Angela Catton

Audio/Visual: Tim Kass & Kay Michaelson

Bulletin Art: Angela Catton

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Be Blessed! Students of all ages, teachers, and all school personnel are invited to bring their backpacks and work bags to worship on Sunday, August 23rd for a blessing – and a gift!

Imagine More! It's time to start preparing for the next ELCA Youth Gathering, which will be June 28th – July 2nd, 2027, in Minneapolis! This event is for students who will be in high school or 8th grade this coming school year (2026-27). Let Pastor Paige know if you have youth who are interested in attending the 2027 Gathering! An informational meeting for students and parents will take place Wednesday, August 26th at 7pm.

Party Together! You're invited to the Heeran's Porch Party on Sunday, August 30th, starting at 4pm! Bring a snack to share, lawn games, and a lawn chair.

Live Out Your Faith! Confirmation for 6th-9th grade students will resume soon! Parents/guardians are asked to attend an informational meeting with their students on Wednesday, September 2nd, at 7pm in the PUCC Fellowship Hall. Confirmation will officially start on Wednesday, September 16th, at 7pm. This year's focus is *living out your faith!*

Find more announcements at <https://www.livingfaithlemars.com/blog>

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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