

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Divine Service One

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

*The Parable of the
Wheat and the Weeds*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43





The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

8 AM and 10:30 AM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

(Missouri Synod)

9770 Foothills Canyon Blvd.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Sunday Worship Services.....8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Bible Classes and Sunday School.....9:25 a.m.
Church Office.....303-683-1300
Rev. Bruce Skelton, Pastor, Cell.....303-908-3339
Fax.....303-470-0165

***Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:
Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!***

Prayer for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Dear Lord Jesus, You are the Physician of the spiritually ill, the Savior of sinners. You approach us sinners with patience and great pity and call us to repentance. Your whole life on this earth, all of Your thoughts, actions, suffering, and death had just one aim: to convince sinners that God was reconciled to them and would mercifully forgive and receive them, if they would but repent and come to Him. And when we poor sinners, even those with a weak faith, call upon You for help, You welcome us with open arms. In Your saving name. Amen.



Confession and Absolution

804 O Worship the King

Stand

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

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- G** Amen.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- G** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- G** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 86:11–15; antiphon: v. 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.

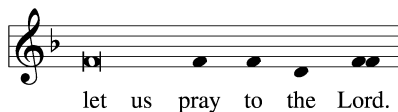
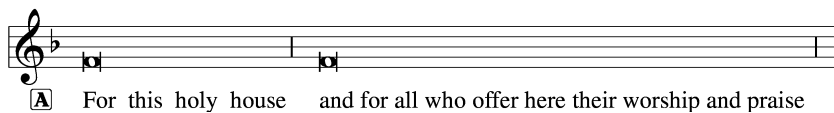
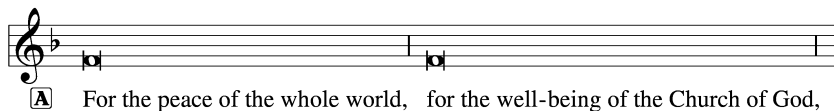
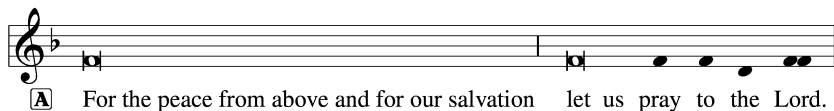
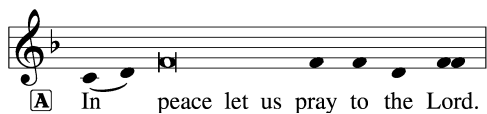
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast love and | faithfulness.

**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.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47





A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 44:6–8

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.

Who 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.

Fear 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."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



**Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom
and knowl- | edge of God!***

**How unsearchable are his judgments
and how inscrutable | his ways!**

For from him and through him and to him are | all things.*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

Epistle: Romans 8:18–27

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 decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And 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. 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.

Likewise 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. And 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.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand



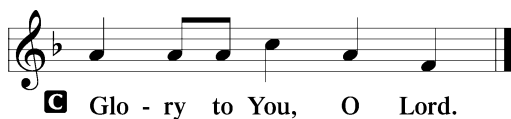
Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68



Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

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



[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And 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?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, '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, 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.'" . . .

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 children 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 close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

772 In Holy Conversation

Sermon

"Wheat and Weeds"

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

923 Almighty Father, Bless the Word



Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Sit

Offering

(Please add your name to the red fellowship book and pass it to your fellow worshipers.)

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

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.**

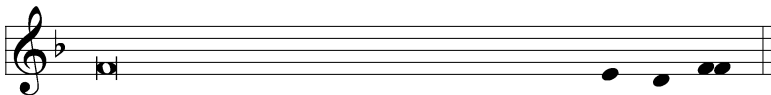
Closing Collect

P Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray



Soli Deo Gloria!

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Announcements



Assisting Elders:

8 a.m. – Scott Schlapkohl

10:30 a.m. – Andy Olson

Graduation Party



The Ogu family would like to invite you to a graduation party on Saturday, August 5 at 3 p.m., at General's Park in Aurora (1561 Quentin St., Aurora, CO 80011) to celebrate Nche's graduation from ThunderRidge High School in May. (Questions-contact Mavis at 303-960-7528)



July/August Mission Project

For the months of July and August, we are introducing a local Denver

based organization formerly known as Street's Hope. They are now called Voluntad (/bolun'tad/ - referring to free will.)

Voluntad: The ability to choose with freedom and dignity

Street's Hope/Voluntad provides survivor-informed services to support and empower survivors of all forms of human trafficking. Street's Hope/Voluntad works to bring awareness and education to our community in the fight against exploitation and human trafficking. We envision a world where all people can choose the direction of their own lives, free from exploitation.

Voluntad.org | 720-420-9951 | Admin@Voluntad.org

Street's Hope/Voluntad Services to Human Trafficking Survivors

5 Ways YOU Can Help

1. Educate Yourself and Others.

Being well-informed will make you a better agent of change. Read information from trusted sources like polarisproject.org and combathumantrafficking.org. Visit our Education page at voluntad.org/resources for other informative materials, and watch our Facebook and Instagram page for information and updates.

2. Choose Empathy.

Be compassionate. Recognize that you may not understand the complexity of someone's situation. A spectrum of choice and exploitation impacts the lives of the most vulnerable people, and many factors play a role in where someone lands on that spectrum. These factors can be both the cause and effect of human trafficking.

3. Understand Vulnerabilities.

Human trafficking is the business of monetizing the vulnerability of other humans. Vulnerability is created through economic, racial, and gender-based inequality. These vulnerabilities, whether personal or political, set the stage for exploitation in all its forms and call survival in question. The need to survive impacts the ability to freely choose.

4. If You Need to Report.

Call 866-455-5075 or text 720-999-9724 for the Colorado Human Trafficking Hotline or call 888-373-7888 or text HELP to 233733 (BEFREE) for the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

5. Support Street's Hope/Voluntad.

Find out how



5 Things You Can Do

1. Become a Voluntad Ambassador.

You have the voluntad to make a difference for human trafficking survivors. To learn more and to become an Ambassador email Kaylee at Admin@Voluntad.org.

2. Directly Support Survivors.

Where to donate? Visit our Website at Voluntad.org/donate. Does your employer have a gift matching program?

3. Keep Our Resource Bank Full.

Donating items on our needs lists provides survivors with hygiene products, clothing, necessities to make a house feel like a home, and more. To see and collect items that are on our needs list go to voluntad.org/outreach-needs-list. You can also purchase items on our Amazon Wish list at <https://a.co/j6u6rip>.

4. Donate While You Shop.

Link your King Sooper's card to King Soopers Community Rewards and choose Street's Hope (YY482) as the organization you would like to support.

5. You Have the Power to Tell the Truth.

Follow us on social media & share our page with your friends and followers. Facebook.com/streetshope@streetsHope & Instagram.com/voluntaddenver@VoluntadDenver.

When making donation from Amazon wish list, use this mailing address:

Street's Hope Voluntad
PO BOX 9794
DENVER, CO 80209-0794

and your own phone number

About Street's Hope/Voluntad

- For over 15 years Street's Hope/Voluntad has been the only service provider of this type in the Rocky Mountain region. Our goal is to assist vulnerable people to have the chance to make REAL choices.
- Survivors are supported by housing navigators, peer support professionals, mental health professionals, and case managers. Each staff member brings unique expertise and life experience. Staff members support each survivor's journey toward wholeness, agency, and a life lived with dignity.

Over 

- During the pandemic, human trafficking survivors experienced a dislocating impact similar to a natural disaster, exacerbating the exonomic and social hardships that made them vulnerable to exploitatin. Because of this we see an increased need for our services. As compared to the same time frame in 2020, our 24-hour phone line call volume has gone up by 70%! The number of clients in our intensive program has doubled each year since 2019.

The Wheat and the Weeds--Matthew 13

1. TVASEHR _____
2. EHWTA _____
3. ARBAEPL _____
4. SLEDBNU _____
5. RBNEUD _____
6. POUTOR _____
7. TGAHRE _____
8. IEEGWPN _____
9. FENACUR _____
10. GTERIUSOH _____
11. RFHTEA _____
12. ONIDKGM _____
13. SESNAVTR _____
14. EMYEN _____
15. DWSEE _____



Offensive Claims

Thus says the Lord, ... "I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god."

Isaiah 44:6

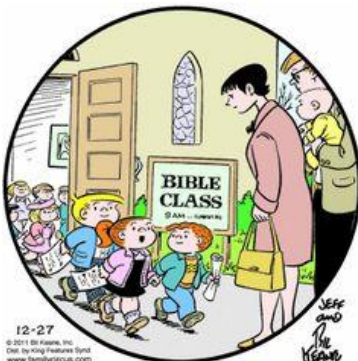
Several years ago, while on a trip to India, a prominent Christian leader, trying not to offend his hosts, said that there are many gods but the Christian God is the best god. However, the God of the Bible makes it very clear, "Besides Me there is no god" (Isaiah 44:6).

Many people in our society and world today take offense at the exclusive claims of Christianity. The biblical assertion that there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:5-6) seems too narrow and restrictive to those who feel that there are many pathways to salvation or enlightenment. It can be tempting to water down or compromise our beliefs to avoid offending others, especially those people who are closest to us.

Our Christian witness should always be shared with "gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15). But it is also to be uncompromising. If people reject Christ, may it not be because of our offensive manner but rather because they take offense at Christianity's central message of the cross and empty tomb. For "there is salvation in no one else" besides our crucified and risen Savior (Acts 4:12).

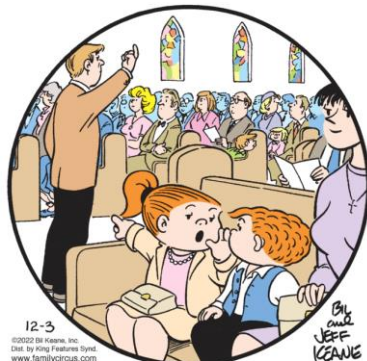
Heavenly Father, we praise You for Your wondrous plan of salvation through Christ. Give us the boldness and courage to share Your grace and truth with others around us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Taken from Portal of Prayers, August 8, 2021



12-27
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**"We learned the fourth commandment:
'Honor thy father and thy mother.'"**



12-3
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**"He stops you from talking.
He's a husher."**

The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

HEAVEN

PUNISHED

WICKED

ANGELS

LOVE

JESUS

DISCIPLES

BURN

BARN

HARVEST

WEEDS

WHEAT

FARMER

SOWER

PARABLE

KINGDOM

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life **July 23, 2023**

“Jesus, who is all Man and all God, becomes one of us in order that all of us might become one with Him. Finally, a sigh of relief, a cry of joy, even, a shout of thanksgiving! God is on the throne. Amen.”

*Rev. Dr. John Nunes, Guest Speaker on “The Lutheran Hour”
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Petitions and Prayers: Through His Word, God teaches us **how** to pray, **what** to pray for, and what we can **expect** in prayer.



Health concerns:

God of everlasting power, enable those people with illnesses to bear them with a measure of forbearance. Stay with them, granting them Your peace. Bless the efforts of the doctors and nurses involved in caring for them. We pray in the name of Your Son who helps us keep our eyes of faith focused on our eternal home. Amen.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- **Joy Pinkston** is having knee replacement surgery on July 31.
- **Eric Pinkston** (son of **Bill and Joy**) is being tested for heart problems and high blood pressure.
- Friends of the **Pinkstons**: **Carolyn** having hip replacement surgery on 8/2; **Elaine** is having heart testing on 8/3; **Greg** has been on kidney dialysis for several years and his doctors are determining the wisdom of his getting a kidney transplant.
- **Jenny, Paul** and daughter **Ivy** who had a heart stint put in upon birth. Ivy is doing well and will go home in a couple of weeks (family friends of **Marie McQuarrie**)
- **Devon** Hanson (grandson of **Connie and Terry Mitchell**) – mental health issues
- **Dillon** (grandson of **Connie and Terry Mitchell** - health issues
- **Roger Frank** (brother of **Connie Mitchell**) cancer
- **Mary** (relative of **Tabris**) pray for protection and wisdom for her family concerning special needs.
- **Angela** (single mother in Illinois) friend of **Helen Tabris** –waiting for heart transplant
- **Jamie** (is missing and has mental health issues) and young daughter **Jade** (is being adopted by family in Colorado)

**Holy Spirit, by whose power the children of God confess their faith even in the face of persecution, do not forsake our brothers and sister facing such tribulation. Give them the strength to carry the cross that is theirs and grant them certainty that theirs is the crown of life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me; hear my words.**

Psalm 17:6



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

Romans 8:26

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Reaching lost souls with the Gospel:

Nourishing and equipping the saints for life and ministry!



Check out

The Lutheran Hour

Sunday mornings at

6 a.m. on 850 KOA Radio or
click on "Listen Now" anytime.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



Holy Cross Lutheran is on Facebook.
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facebook.com/HolyCrossHighlandsRanch.

God's Garden

Lettuce be Kind

Squash Gossip

Turnip for Church

