

# Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023



## Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

**THREAD:** *The Christian lives as wheat among weeds.*

### Hymn: All Praise to God Who Reigns Above

CW 603



1 All praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of  
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, in mer - cy  
3 I cried to him in time of need: Lord God, O  
4 The Lord will not for - sake his flock, his cho - sen  
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, to God give



all cre - a - tion, the God of won - ders, pow'r, and  
he is keep - ing; by morn - ing dawn or eve - ning  
hear my call - ing! For death he gave me life in -  
gen - er - a - tion; he is their ref - uge and their  
praise and glo - ry! Let all who know his pow'r pro -



love, the God of our sal - va - tion! With heal - ing  
shade his eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the  
deed and kept my feet from fall - ing. For this my  
rock, their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a  
claim a - loud the won - drous sto - ry! All i - dols



balm my soul he fills, the God who ev - 'ry sor - row  
king - dom of his might, all things are just and good and  
thanks shall end - less be; O thank him, thank our God with  
moth - er's ten - der hand he leads his own, his cho - sen  
un - der foot be trod— The Lord is God! The Lord is



stills: To God all praise and glo - ry!  
right: To God all praise and glo - ry!  
me: To God all praise and glo - ry!  
band: To God all praise and glo - ry!  
God! To God all praise and glo - ry!

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

**Amen.**

### Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just**

**and will forgive us our sins**

**and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Glory Be to God on High**

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the

Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

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 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 44:6–11*

*We as Christians live in a world of evil. God tells us and we should expect it. No amount of evil is more powerful than He, so we are invited to trust in Him. He is our refuge and our safety in this evil world. We are to be his witnesses. That is our job as wheat among weeds.*

<sup>6</sup>“This is what the LORD says—

Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:

I am the first and I am the last;  
 apart from me there is no God.

<sup>7</sup>Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and lay out before me  
 what has happened since I established my ancient people,  
 and what is yet to come—  
 yes, let them foretell what will come.

<sup>8</sup>Do not tremble, do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?  
 You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?  
 No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

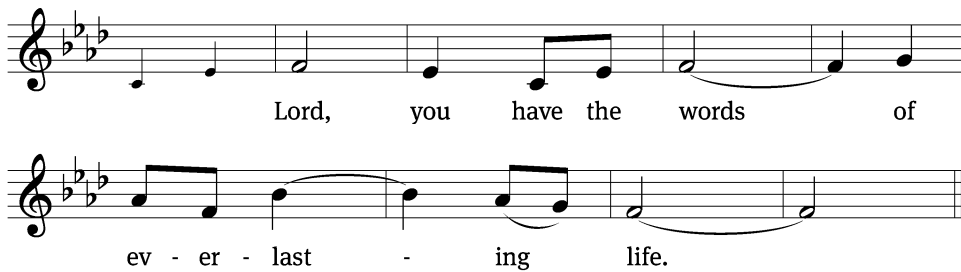
<sup>9</sup>All who make idols are nothing,  
 and the things they treasure are worthless.  
 Those who would speak up for them are blind;  
 they are ignorant, to their own shame.  
<sup>10</sup>Who shapes a god and casts an idol,  
 which can profit nothing?  
<sup>11</sup>People who do that will be put to shame;  
 such craftsmen are only human beings.  
 Let them all come together and take their stand;  
 they will be brought down to terror and shame.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Lord, You Have the Words of Everlasting Life**

Psalm 19C

*Refrain*



Lord, you have the words of  
 ev - er - last - ing life.

*Tone*



The heavens declare the glo- / ry of God;  
 the skies proclaim the work / of his hands.  
 Their voice goes out into / all the earth,  
 their words to the ends / of the world. **Refrain**

The law of the LORD is / perfect,  
 refresh- / ing the soul.  
 The commands of the LORD are / radiant,  
 giving light / to the eyes.  
 They are more pre- / cious than gold;  
 they are sweeter than / honey. **Refrain**

May these words of my mouth and this meditation / of my heart  
 be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my rock and my Re- / deemer.

**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. Refrain**

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**Second Reading**

Romans 1:18–25

*God gave the whole world testimony about himself through creation. The natural knowledge of God (and the invitation to fellowship with Him) is available to everyone. When the wicked disobey, he hands them over to sin, removing any excuses when the final judgement comes.*

<sup>18</sup>The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup>since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup>They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Romans 11:33

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

**How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel

Matthew 13:24–30,36–43

*God had intended to have a weed-free field of wheat. However, the enemy thwarted his intention with temptation and sin. God has a plan to separate the wheat and weeds - just not yet. He does not want us to try to take on that task. He tells us to live as wheat among the weeds and wait for the harvest when the angels will sort it all out.*

<sup>24</sup>Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup>But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup>When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup>“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

<sup>28</sup>“ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

<sup>29</sup>“ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

<sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

<sup>40</sup>“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup>They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Hymn of the Day: Come, You Thankful People, Come

CW 491



1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from his field shall in that day all of - fens-es purge a - way,  
gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, shall pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.  
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,  
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.  
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
Come with all your an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har-vest home.

## Sermon

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

### Wait for the Harvest

God Knows How to Take Care of His Field

The Weeds will Burn

The Wheat will Shine

*Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission  
Ministering Elder: Mark Harris*

## Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there 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**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture.

Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith.

Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

... Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

**Offering** – *The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to:*

*Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406*

Let us pray:

God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**



**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: Let All Things Now Living

CW 507



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 His law he en - forc - es; the stars in their cours - es and



God the Cre - a - tor tri - um-phant-ly raise, who fash-ioned and  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient-ly shine. The hills and the



made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who still guides us  
moun-tains, the riv - ers and foun-tains, the deeps of the



on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us; his  
o - cean pro - claim him di - vine. We, too, should be voic-ing our



light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin-ing forth in the  
love and re - joic-ing. With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us



night, till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is  
raise till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -



ban-ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
giv - ing: "To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

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## Silent prayer – Announcements

### Acknowledgments:

Setting One from Christian Worship

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