

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 23, 2023

AS WE GATHER

God's plans are far beyond our understanding. Even His divine existence sends our minds reeling. No wonder that Jesus' disciples, and we who follow them, cannot figure out why He lets His and our spiritual enemies live with us. But because we have been given faith by the Holy Spirit, and although we cannot understand God's plans, in the death and resurrection of Christ, our Lord, we trust His divine wisdom. We have the firstfruits of the Spirit and know that the Spirit intercedes for us. Thus, even in the groans of our prayers, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In sure hope, we wait for the day when we shall "shine like the sun" in our Father's kingdom.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" (LSB – 893 all 3 verses)

Sing to the Lord of harvest,
With joyful hearts and voices
By Him the rolling seasons
Sing to the Lord of harvest

Sing songs of love and praise;
Your alleluias raise.
In fruitful order move;
A joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds rain goodness,
The hills leap up in gladness,
God fills them with His fullness,
He crowns the year with blessing,

The deserts bloom and spring,
The valleys laugh and sing.
All things with large increase;
With plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar
The golden sheaves of harvest,
Your hearts lay down before Him
And with your lives adore Him

The gifts His goodness gave,
The souls Christ died to save.
When at His feet you fall,
Who gave His life for all.

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **We confess, gracious God, that we groan not only because of sin in the world, but our failure to trust You for all that we need. We have not waited patiently; we have demanded reasons from You; we have sought to excuse ourselves. Yet You have given us the Spirit, who intercedes for us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us to hope not in ourselves but in the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Pastor: The promises of God are sure; one day creation will be set free from corruption. Your sins were taken to Christ's cross, where you were redeemed as God's beloved children. 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.

People: **Amen.**

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT

ALL: **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.**

Men: **Teach me your way, Lord,**

Women: *and I will walk in your truth;*

Men: **give me an undivided heart,**

Women: *that I may fear your name.*

Men: **I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart;**

Women: *I will glorify your name forever.*

Men: **For great is your love toward me;**

Women: *you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave*

ALL: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

ALL: **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.**

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment,

People: we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

(No one compares to God.)

6 “This is what the Lord says, He who is the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of armies: ‘I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me. 7 Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; and, let him confront Me beginning with My establishing of the ancient nation. Then let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place. 8 Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none.’”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Romans 8:18-27

(The Holy Spirit intercedes as we wait for the end of this troubled world.)

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only that, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, through perseverance we wait eagerly for it. 26 Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43

*(The parable of the wheat and weeds.)
(please stand)*

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

24 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. 26 And when the wheat sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also became evident. 27 And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' 28 And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him,

‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ 29 But he said, ‘No; while you are gathering up the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and at the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the weeds and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

36 Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” 37 And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, 38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the weeds are the sons of the evil one; 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. 40 So just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears, let him hear.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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.

(please be seated)

HYMN “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” (LSB – 892 all 4 verses)

Come, ye thankful people, come;
All be safely gathered in

Raise the song of harvest home.
Ere the winter storms begin;

God, our maker, doth provide
Come to God's own temple, come;

For our wants to be supplied.
Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field,
Wheat and tares together sown,
First the blade and then the ear,
Lord of harvest, grant that we

Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Unto joy or sorrow grown.
Then the full corn shall appear.
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord, our God, shall come
From His field shall in that day
Give His angels charge at last
But the fruitful ears to store

And shall take His harvest home,
All offenses purge away,
In the fire the tares to cast,
In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
Gather Thou Thy people in,
There, forever purified,
Come with all Thine angels, come,

To Thy final harvest home;
Free from sorrow, free from sin,
In Thy garner to abide:
Raise the glorious harvest home.

MESSAGE: "Field of Truths"

Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43

OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB 781 vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer**

Pastor: Be merciful to us, O Lord, and hear our prayers. Grant to us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and be steadfast in the confession of Christ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray . . .

THE 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.

THANKSGIVING TO GOD

Pastor: Let us Pray. Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

(please be seated)

HYMN “Christ Be My Leader” (LSB – 861 all 3 verses)

Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Prayers for continued healing

Judy Beauford - Ed Mycock - Robert Saur
Josh Sagebiel - Snookie Moore

For Family and Friends

Mario & Eve Betancourt requests prayers for **Reese Richeson**, 16-year-old daughter of friends, undergoing treatment for brain cancer.

Donna Cifers requests prayers for her 89-year-old mother's health issues – **Margaret Chamness**

Debra Beard's daughter-in-law **Sarah** and husband **Jake**

Roger Winkelmann requests prayers for his sister, **Linda** trying new medicine for Parkinson's.

Jim Minica requests prayers for his sister, **Linda Rose**

For family discord, reconciliation, and healing

For Messiah's Learning Teams and Call Committee

We pray for discernment of the police officials who face massively increased populations and increases in crime while they remain on a tight budget.

Prayers for all on our hearts with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done.

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message.

We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

Almighty God, You have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in Your Son's name. Mercifully incline Your ears to us who have now made our prayers & supplications to You, and grant that those things that we have faithfully asked according to Your will we may receive to meet our need and bring glory to You, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

JULY ALTAR FLOWERS

July 2nd – Rebecca Bottlinger – Commemorating the Declaration of Independence by the Constitutional Congress dated July 4, 1776

July 2nd – Mark & Melissa Rutledge – celebrating 27 years of marriage

July 9th - Russ & Margaret Leachman – celebrating 35 years of marriage

July 16th – Dan & Donna Cifers – in honor of Donna's Mom – Margaret Chamness

July 23rd - Steve & Janet Haberoth – thanksgiving for God's Blessings

July 23rd – Bill & Linda Dicke – the blessing of Grandbabies

July 30th - Mike & Debbie Stender - celebrating 51 years of marriage

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here!*
Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!

We Believe, Teach and Confess - *Today we continue Pastor's Course for Adult Instruction in the Lutheran Christian Faith. We welcome all who are considering joining Messiah as well as anyone seeking additional information on what we believe.*

Vision Team *There will be a brief congregational meeting after service on July 30th for the Vision team to present their recommendations and to take questions from the congregation. Please plan to be at this important meeting as we move closer to finalizing the information needed for our Call package! If you have any questions before the meeting, please reach out to someone on the Vision Team (Melissa Rutledge, John Beard, Tom Bibb, Mark Giardinelli, Gina Huskey, Sharon Loren)*

Messiah's Adult Game Day - *is cancelled for the month of August – Mark your calendars the next Game Day is scheduled for Saturday September 16th at 2pm in the Family Life Center! Come join us! Bring drinks, snacks, games, and friends!*

Messiah's Ladies Time Out - *We are planning to meet at Las Guitarras Mexican Restaurant on Main Street in Boerne on Thursday, August 10th at 11am. Please RSVP to Lindy or sign up at church.*

Save the Dates - *Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center's Annual Fundraising Gala Tuesday, **September 19, 2023**. MLC's Annual Messiah 5K Fun Walk/Run - Saturday morning, **September 30, 2023**. MLC's Annual Adult Christmas Party - Saturday evening, **December 9, 2023**. Be on the lookout for forthcoming information!*

Many have asked *if there is still a need for financial resources in addition to the already generous donations that have been given for the Refurbishment Project. Yes, there is opportunity for congregational support for: Audio-Visual new speakers, projectors - New narthex furnishings - Repair and updating of our sanctuary air-conditioning/heating systems – tree trimming and landscape update. Anyone interested in sharing in meeting those needs can earmark donations to “Refurbishment.”*

Additionally, manpower will be needed *in the near future: Be on watch for workday announcements for (once a date has been set): Grounds yardwork/cleanup - Move in Day help - Dedication & Community Celebration Day. Questions: contact David Wendeborn.*

Issues, Etc. - *Daily Lutheran Chapel Service - You can listen to chapel services from Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne, IN live weekdays at 8:35 am Central and on-demand at issuesetc.org and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.*

THE PARABLE OF
the Wheat & the Weeds



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us Today – July 23, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Shirley Moore
Treats: Larry & Kathy Rottman
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: David & Lorrie Wendeborn
Reader: Artie Dolt
Ushers: Allen Leitko – David Theis – Maurice Doublet – Harold Moore
Greeters: Larry & Kathy Rottman & Sue Theis

Serving us Next Sunday – July 30, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Janis & Joyce Meier
Treats: **OPEN**
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: David & Lorrie Wendeborn
Reader: Alana Kemmy
Ushers: Allen Leitko – David Theis – Maurice Doublet – Harold Moore
Greeters: Kathy Giardinelli

Our Response to God Last Week Worship Attendance: 76 | Sunday School: 29

June 2023 Contributions			
General Fund	\$44,490.94	Building Fund	\$3,740.00
Renovation Fund	\$51,629.79	Family Life Center	\$3,486.46