

# EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PASTOR CALVIN KONOP, PRESIDING  
JESSICA CHRISTENSON, CYF DIRECTOR  
KARINA ROTH, MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
10:00 AM - July 19, 2026 - SETTING 12

*Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!*

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## INTRODUCTION

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.

## PRELUDE

**Karina Roth**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who looks upon us with compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**Have mercy, O God, against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. **Blessed be God forever.**

**GATHERING SONG: *Womb of Life and Source of Being* ACS 948**

## 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.**

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Jess Christenson

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting "Noisy Change" for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger.

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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

Psalm 86:11-17

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup> **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup> For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup> **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.**

<sup>15</sup> But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup> **Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup> **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.**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 8:12-25**

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup> 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!” <sup>16</sup> it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? <sup>25</sup> 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 ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia*

**ACS page 33**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL**

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

<sup>24</sup> [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup> but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. <sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup> And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup> He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup> But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the

wheat along with them.<sup>30</sup> Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup> He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup> the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup> and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, 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. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Calvin Konop**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field*

**ACS 952**

**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 Pontius 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**

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *(A brief silence.)*

God our creator, sustain creation in all places. As forest fires rage throughout the boundary waters, protect all wildlife and all human life.

Protect all those working to mitigate and fight the fires, and give them the sustenance and energy that they need. Guide all who are evacuating to safety, surround them with a loving community, and give them hope for the future. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. We pray especially these we name before you now: *for Linda, Lynn, Luke, Sarah, Katrina, and Nancy.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence).* We lift to You all those dealing with issues of mental health or addiction. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

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

## **OFFERING**

***Beloved, God's Chosen***

**Bethlehem Choir**

by Michael Burkhardt & Susan Palo Cherwien

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth, **all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are**

**signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**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**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Almighty God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**ACS page 36**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. All are welcome!**

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion. (Offered in these sacraments are wine or apple juice; and regular or gluten-free wafers.)*

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

***Lamb of God***

**ELW page 112**

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, O God, **that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in **✝** Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Sing to the Lord of Harvest*

ELW 694

## DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Karina Roth



**Fisherman's Picnic Worship**  
Bethlehem will lead worship at Fisherman's Picnic on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am. This will be in place of worship at Bethlehem.

Coffee from Java Moose and treats from World's Best Donuts & Crosby Bakery will be served.





# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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## **This Week at Bethlehem:**

Sun July 19 10:00 AM **Worship Service**

2:00 PM Care Center

Worship Service

Wed July 22 12:30 PM Text Study

Thur July 23 8:00 AM Men's Bible

Study

9:00 AM Quilting

Sun July 26 10:00 AM **Worship Service**

**We pray for healing for these members & friends:** Bonnie, Denise Murray, Linda Zenk, Stacey Johnson, Lynn Schulte, Clayton & Nancy Koss, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Phyllis Olson, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Char Anderson, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen.

**This week we lift up these members:** Kyle, Theresa, Amery & Grant Oberg; Matthew & Linnea Schliep; Christy Buetow; Odin, Betsy, Gunnar & Sigrid Jorgenson; and Carl & Luana Brandt. May God walk with these friends in their faithful journey.

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Mary Magdalene, Apostle. July 22**

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.

**Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373. July 23.** Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

**James, Apostle. July 25.** James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).



## **Sunday Morning Volunteers**

We are always looking for more help with ushers, communion servers, greeters and lectors on Sunday mornings. If you would like to learn more about any of these volunteer positions, ask Pastor Calvin. Getting more info does not sign you up to help.

**Pastor Calvin is on vacation** following the service today through next Sunday. He will return to the office on Monday July 27. We wish him a wonderful week off. If you need anything during his time off, please contact the office. 218-387-2227.