

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Holy Manna* WOOD

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever. Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. Amen.

HYMN #461 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* HOLY MANNA

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



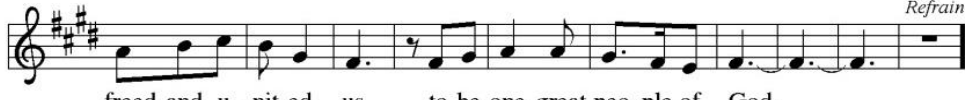
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



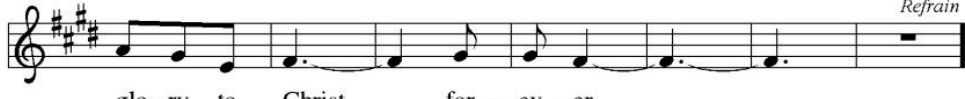
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



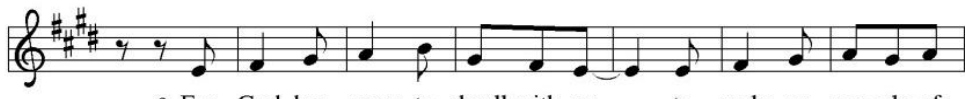
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *Let us pray together. 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.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55: 1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

- ¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
 and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145: 8-9, 14-21

- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ **Lord, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.**
- ¹⁶ You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- ¹⁷ **You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.**
- ¹⁸ You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.
- ¹⁹ **You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.**
- ²⁰ You watch over all those who love you,
but all the wicked you shall destroy.
- ²¹ **My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

SECOND READING: Romans 9: 1-5

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14: 13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Pastor Tucker O'Leary, n/OLF*

HYMN #464 *Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal* JESUS, FEED US

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, let us confess our faith

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.

THE PRAYERS

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

...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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

Gracioso

MILLER

OFFERTORY #686 We Give Thee but Thine Own (stanza 1 only) HEATH



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

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

It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS [HOLY, HOLY, HOL Y]



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

AGNUS DEI [LAMB OF GOD]

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you break the chains of ha - tred and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
fear:
peace:
love.

Final Stanza

Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. Amen.

SENDING HYMN #674 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* LINSTAD

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Morning Fanfare* LEHENBAUER



Summer Sunday Worship 9:30

You take away the sin of the world

Welcome to First Lutheran Church.

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

WE ASK EVERYONE to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Miriam Gibson

A CARD WRITING MINISTRY has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!

DINNERS FOR 8

Take a look at the bulletin board to sign up for Dinners for 8 starting in September. This will be a way for our congregation to grow in community and get to know each other better!

CHURCH IN THE PARK

Church in the park will take place at the Riverside Band Shell **NEXT WEEK** on August 9th at 10:30am and be sponsored by First Lutheran, St. John's, Trinity Lutheran, and Trinity Arcadia. First Lutheran will be responsible for meat and main dishes for the potluck after. You can find the signup sheet on the bulletin board!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS will take place on August 16th during the 9:30 AM service. All are welcome to bring their school or college backpacks to receive a tag and a blessing for the academic year!

SEVERE STORMS, HURRICANES, AND NATURAL DISASTERS across the United States have left many without power and/or without homes. With your support our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors as they rebuild. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that survivors don't have to face the road to recovery alone. Through these disasters and others across the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities for as long as the recovery process takes. Together we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need. There are Lutheran Disaster Response envelopes in the narthex or you may mark your gift Lutheran Disaster Response.

POOL PARTY!

On August 16th, from 4-6 PM, there will be a pool party at the McComb Pool, followed by fellowship and snacks immediately following the swimming 6-7 PM. This event is open to all members, friends and family, not just youth! Bring a snack to share.

HELP IS NEEDED on Tuesday afternoons between 4:15 & 5:15 to pick up the donation from Riehm Farms. During the summer, the drop off is weekly instead of biweekly, and volunteers are needed! There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Remember, the box can be used by the volunteer or donated. Thank you!! Any questions, contact Carolyn Bryant, 567-232-0160.

THE APOSTLE BUILD will be September 23rd for house #71. Social Ministry will partner with St. John's Lutheran church to help finish trim at that house at 1664 Bishop Lane, Findlay. We will need 4 volunteers for each shift and helpers for Hospitality that day. Watch for more details as time gets closer.

THE 2026 FLOWER CHART is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

OPEN POSITION: The position of Building Manager is available. Duties include opening and closing the church building, and the keep up and maintenance of the building. If interested, please contact Pastor Tucker or Casey Cox.