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DIDN'T YOU SOW *good seed...*?

Where then
did the weeds
come from?

— Matthew 13:27 —



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Star of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Office: 805-937-0339
www.starlutheran.org
Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Sunday, August 2, 2020 10:00 a.m.

The Ninth Sunday after PENTECOST

Theme of the day: Only God can truly judge anyone. And he does. And he will. In the final judgment, he will judge the world with justice, taking to heaven all who believe and condemning forever all who reject.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our friends and visitors! Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is eager to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. If you are a new or long-time resident of the Central Coast looking for a church home, we invite you to meet with us at the close of this worship service or at your convenience. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the fellowship hall.

Families are encouraged to worship together. If you need to step out with your children, the service can be seen and heard in the fellowship hall or narthex area. Feel free to enter and return at any time.

OUR MISSION

Our congregation exists for the purpose of "HOLDING OUT THE WORD OF LIFE." This is accomplished by faithfully preserving and proclaiming all of God's inerrant word, and administering the Sacraments as they were instituted by Christ.

OPENING HYMN: # 226 “To Your Temple I Draw Near”

♪ **To your temple I draw near; Lord, I love to worship here.
Here are sacrament and Word;
Here believers meet their Lord.**

**I through Christ am reconciled;
I through Christ become your child.
Abba, Father, give me grace In your courts to seek your face.**

**While your glorious praise is sung,
Touch my lips, unloose my tongue,
That my joyful soul may bless
Christ the Lord, my righteousness.**

**While the prayers of saints ascend, God of love, to mine attend.
Hear me, for your Spirit pleads; Hear, for Jesus intercedes.**

**While I listen to your law, Fill my soul with holy awe
Till your gospel brings to me Life and immortality.**

**While your ministers proclaim
Peace and pardon in your name,
Through their voice, by faith, may I
Hear you speaking from the sky.**

**From your house, when I return,
May my heart within me burn,
And at evening let me say, “I have walked with God today.”**

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.** (*spoken*)

Confession of Sins

M: God invites us to come into his presence to worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: Amen

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: ♪ Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C. ♪ Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

♪ O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it; you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your on-ly Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e-ter-nal Word of the Fa-ther, you came to live with us; you made your Fa-ther known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

FIRST LESSON: Romans 8:26,27

²⁶In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we should pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that are not expressed in words. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints, according to God's will.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 18



The LORD is my rock, my fortress and by deliverer;*
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

He reached down from on high and took hold of me;*
he rescued me from my powerful enemy.

He brought me out into a spacious place;*
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

Refrain

**You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;
my God turns my darkness into light.**

**You save the humble*
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.**

**You give me your shield of victory,*
and your right hand sustains me.**

**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.**

Refrain

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴He presented another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. ²⁷The servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy did this.’ The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?’ ²⁹‘No,’ he answered, ‘because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn.” ’ ”

³⁶Then Jesus sent the people away and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷He answered them, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One. ³⁹The enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are angels.

⁴⁰Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the world. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will pull out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and those who continue to break the law. ⁴²The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Alleluia. My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia! (Isaiah 55:11)

C: ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HYMN: # 337 “Delay Not! Delay Not!”

♪ Delay not! Delay not! O sinner, draw near!
The waters of life are now flowing for you.
No price is demanded; the Savior is here.
Redemption is purchased; God’s promise is true.

Delay not! Delay not, O sinner, to come,
For mercy still lingers and calls you today.
Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
Its message, unheeded, will soon pass away.

Delay not! Delay not! The Spirit of grace,
Long grieved and resisted, may take his sad flight
And leave you in darkness to finish your race,
To sink in the gloom of eternity’s night.

Delay not! Delay not! The hour is at hand;
The earth will dissolve, and the heavens will fade.
The dead, small and great, in the Judgment must stand—
What pow’r, then, O sinner, can lend you its aid?

**Delay not! Delay not! Why longer abuse
The love and compassion of Jesus, your God?
A fountain is opened—how can you refuse?
Come, wash and be cleansed in his pardoning blood.**

SERMON: Joel 3:12-16

- ¹² Let the nations be roused.
Let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat,
for there I will be seated to judge all the nations.**
- ¹³ Swing the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.
Come, trample the grapes,
for the winepress is full and the vats overflow,
because the nations' wickedness is so great!**
- ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the Valley of Decision!
For the Day of the LORD is near in the Valley of Decision.**
- ¹⁵ The sun and moon will be darkened,
and the stars will stop shining.**
- ¹⁶ The LORD will roar from Zion
and shout from Jerusalem.
The sky and the earth will tremble.
But the LORD will be a refuge for his people,
a stronghold for the people of Israel.**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn: # 613 “Come, You Thankful People, Come”

**♪ Come, you thankful people, come;
Raise the song of harvest-home.
All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin.
God our maker shall provide For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God’s own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest-home.**

**All the world is God’s own field, Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and weeds together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come
And shall take his harvest home,
From his field shall in that day All offenses purge away,
Give his angels charge at last In the fire the weeds to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store In his garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come To your final harvest-home;
Gather all your people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, In your garner to abide.
Come with all your angels, come;
Raise the glorious harvest-home.**

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.

Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

C: ♪ Amen. Amen. Amen.

HYMN # 468 “My God, My Father, Make Me Strong”

**♪ My God, my Father, make me strong,
When tasks of life seem hard and long,
To greet them with this triumph song: Your will be done.**

**Draw from my timid eyes the veil
To show, where earthly forces fail,
Your pow'r and love must still prevail—Your will be done.**

**With confident and humble mind
In service freedom I will find,
Praying through ev'ry toil assigned: Your will be done.**

**What seems impossible I dare;
Yours is the call and yours the care.
Your wisdom shall the way prepare—Your will be done.**

**Heav'n's music chimes the glad days in;
Hope soars beyond death, pain, and sin;
Faith shouts in triumph, Love must win—Your will be done!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS for today's service are given to the glory of God by the Brunssen's in gratefulness for blessings received.

PRAYERS Remember to pray for: Gordon Hillberg, Shawn Lozano, John Velasques, Ruth Fabian, little Elias, Shawna Bushey, Rose Marie Hillberg, Atalia (Moore's' grand-daughter), Dennis Douglas, Julieanna Saenz, Rylie Lopez, Bob Ward, George Caravana, Alice Taubman, Don Fabian, Doris Scheuffele, Molly Webb (and her brother Jim), and Helen Marten.

Please remember to use every opportunity to invite others to make use of our streaming services (starlutheran.org).



...the Spirit



helps us in our weakness...

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