

# ***The Season After Pentecost Seventh Sunday***



***The Season After Pentecost: Seventh Sunday***  
ELW Service of the Word  
St. Paul Lutheran Church—July 19th, 2020– 10:00 A.M.

**Introduction to the day**

*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**

*Medley of English Hymn Tunes*

C . S. Lang

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

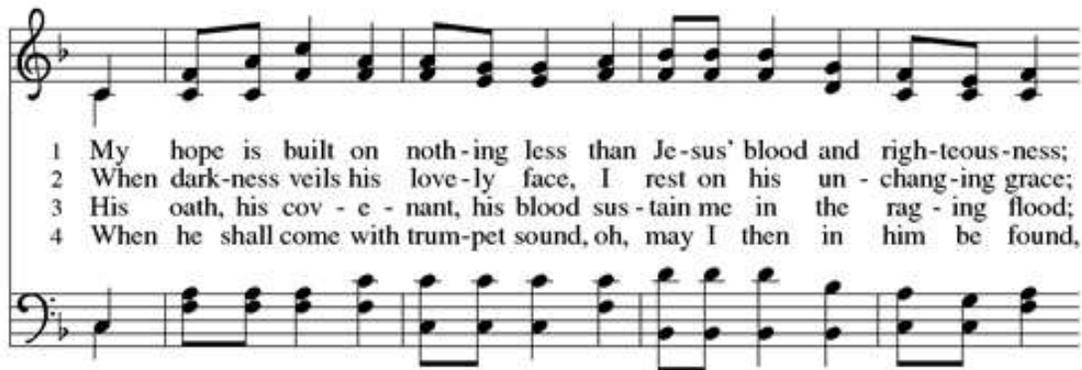
Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

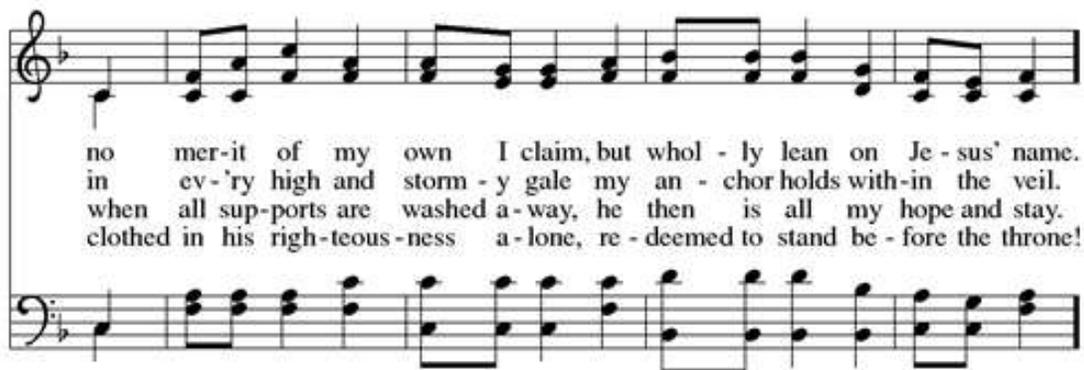
Reconciling God,  
**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.  
We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.  
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.  
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.  
We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.  
We sin in thought, word, and deed.  
By your grace, forgive us;  
through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, lead us;  
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,  
by the radical abundance of divine mercy  
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.  
Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope.  
For hope does not disappoint,  
because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

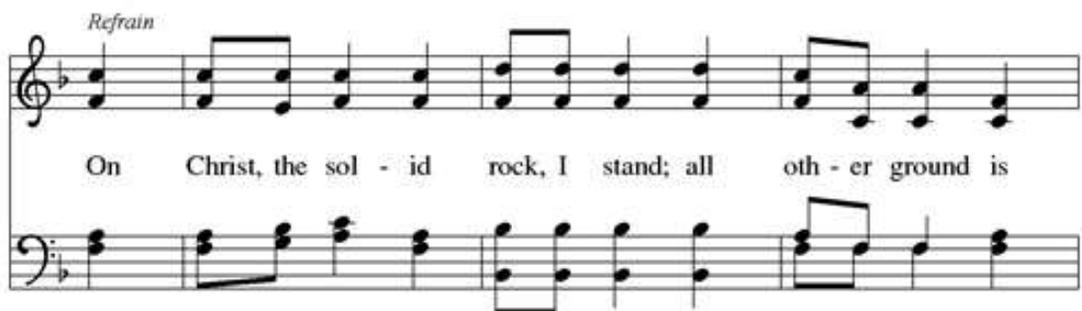


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;  
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;  
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;  
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

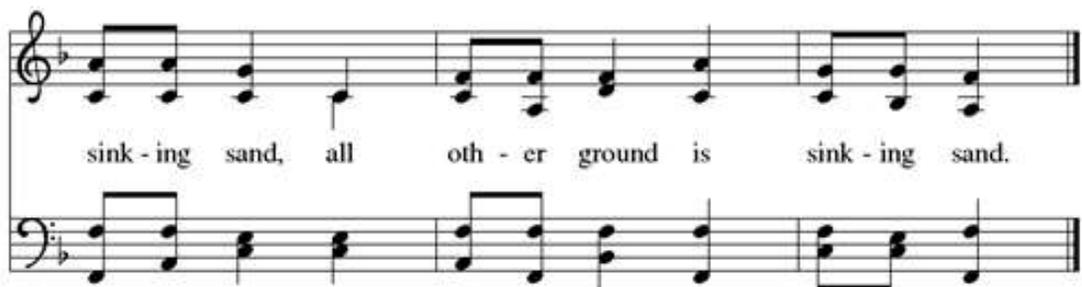


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.  
 when all sup-ports are washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

## 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

Let us pray.

**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

Genesis 28:10-19a

*God's graciousness to Jacob is shown in God's revelation of the divine self to the patriarch, who is running for his life after cheating his brother Esau out of the family inheritance. Jacob promises that if God brings him back to the land, he will be loyal to God and give God a tenth of everything (vv. 20-22).*

<sup>10</sup>Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup>He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup>And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; <sup>14</sup>and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup>Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!" <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

<sup>18</sup>So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. <sup>19a</sup>He called that place Bethel.

Word of God, Word of Life



For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, 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 have 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, in fact, we 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 bondage 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 in labor pains until now; <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 is seen? <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.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (from Setting 9)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.*

<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.**

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Printice Roberts-Toler

## God, Whose Farm Is All Creation



1 God, whose farm is all cre - a - tion, take the grat - i -  
 2 Take our plow - ing, seed - ing, reap - ing, hopes and fears of  
 3 All our la - bor, all our watch - ing, all our cal - en -



tude we give; take the fin - est of our har - vest,  
 sun and rain, all our think - ing, plan - ning, wait - ing,  
 dar of care in these crops of your cre - a - tion,



crops we grow that we may live.  
 rip - ened in this fruit and grain.  
 take, O God: they are our prayer.

Text: John Arlott, 1914–1991  
 Music: HARVEST GIFTS, Larry J. Long, b. 1954  
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### A LITURGICAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from A New Zealand Prayer Book

You, O God, are supreme and holy.  
 You create our world and give us life.  
 Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
 You have always been with us.  
 You are God.  
 You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
 good beyond all measure.  
 You came to us before we came to you.  
 You have revealed and proved  
 Your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
 Who lived and died and rose again.  
 You are with us now.  
 You are God.  
 You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
 You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
 You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
 You are our God. We worship you.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of the harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all space

and time, your whole creation groans in labor pains, awaiting the gift of new birth. Renew the earth, sky, and sea, so that all your creation experiences freedom from the bondage of decay. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and warring ways, by racism and injustice here and around the world. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, you accompany those who suffer and are near to the brokenhearted. Open our hearts to your children who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way, especially those on our prayer list, and those whose names we offer now... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of life, those who have died in you shine like the sun in your endless kingdom. We remember with thanksgiving the saints of all times and places and saints close to us especially Benedict, Mildred, Mary Magdalene, Birgitta and the Apostle James. Gather us with them on the day of salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

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

## Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love,  
 we give thanks to you that you plant Your Word in us,  
 seeds of mercy and good will in us.  
 Drench us in grace, shed your light, bring forth good fruits in us.  
 Awaken us to the needs of others,  
 and at the end bring all the world to your feast  
 at the banquet table of the Lamb,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## 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.

## BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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**DISMISSAL**            Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Prelude on 'St. Anne'*

C. S. Lang

**WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:**

Presiding and Preaching: The Rev. Printice Roberts-Toler

Assisting Minister: The Rev. Anne Deneen

Reader: The Rev. Val Roberts-Toler

Musician and Choir Director: Theodore Stoddard

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**NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**WELCOME TO ST. PAUL** Thank you for joining virtually. Please follow us on Facebook and/or sign up for our FYI Newsletter by logging into our website at [stpaulcapeann.org](http://stpaulcapeann.org).

**WEEKLY MORNING PRAYER**

Join next week's prayer and quiet reflection time by going to the St. Paul Facebook page at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. We will continue offering Morning Prayer throughout the summer.

**MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANNE:** In-Person Visits outside, with Social Distancing  
I have started visiting people at home, outside. It's wonderful to see you in person. If you would like an in-person visit, please let me know. I'm also continuing on-line Zoom visits, Facetime, Microsoft Teams, Messenger facetime or telephone calls, if you prefer that. If you would like to meet with me, please send an email or call. Please contact me directly or contact the office at 978-283-6550 or [office@stpaulcapeann.org](mailto:office@stpaulcapeann.org).

**PRAYER LISTS**

**Please keep these people in your prayers for healing throughout the week:** Heidi H., Pastor O., Roger K., Dan W., Caitlin G., Janet C., Dennis G., Elaine V., Mary V., Andrew G., Hope L., Amy P., Darin B., Alane B., Daneen R., Scott R., Samantha P., Rachael, Sonny M., Deb K., Nancy M., Mitch O., Tasha R., Carole F.

**Armed services:** Josh Coakley, Stephanie Norberg, Brian Misuraca, Christian DiGregorio, John Korpi III, Danny Hill, Rachel Misuraca Lewin, Zach Hafey, Liam Carney, and Tony Favalora

**Please see the FYI emails for more information**