

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 19, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and Fill Our Hearts — Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Jan Hazelton, Scott Hafso

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Faithful God,

C: 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

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

Romans 8: 12-25

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

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that 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. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and 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. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

AM: Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

²⁴Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And 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?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let 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.' "

³⁶Then 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." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Let the Weeds Go

Pastor Jim Kruse

There must be something about the kind of spring and summer we are having that is allowing the weeds to thrive this year. And as I am working to keep them at bay, I am learning more and more about the wide variety that inhabit my yard.

First of all, there are the small leafed, spindly ones with really short roots and a sweet smell that pull right up. And then there are the dark green ones with deep strong roots and leaves that look sort of like parsley. There are the lacy ones that spread out low to the ground and don't seem to have any root at all. And the ones that look like ferns but are not ferns at all. And this week in particular, there are the ones that have little golden dandelion-like flowers that put down a single deep root with flowers that are nearly a foot tall. And then, of course, there is the moss, and ivy, and blackberry bushes.

I suppose that if wanted to, I could use up all the time allotted for this sermon just describing the things that I am trying to prevent from growing in the yard, but what would be the point in that. It is sufficient to say that I know them well and they know me.

When I was an inquisitive child, asking, what are weeds and where do they come from, I was lead to believe that weeds are just ordinary plants that grow in unwanted places. According to this theory, as I came to understand it, there is a proper order to things. Every plant has its place in the world. Like the blackberries and ivy that are threatening to take

over the wild parts of our world, every plant is potentially good. It is just that weeds have been misplaced and grow where they are not wanted.

But as an adult, I have become acquainted with an alternative theory. According to this view, weeds are not ordinary plants, but belong to a special category of super-plants. Weeds possess qualities that other plants do not. Primary among these qualities is their tenacity. Weeds easily multiply, are hard to kill, and grow better than other plants under harsh conditions. Also, weeds do not occur in natural, un-tilled soil. But they thrive in the soils of human cultivation. For whatever reason, weeds are stronger, tougher, more prolific, and less useful than the plants that they threaten to overrun. You might say, under this theory, that weeds were created by a different sower than other plants, and have a different role in the world.

This second, more complex understanding of weeds, the idea that weeds have a different power behind them than ordinary plants, is consistent with the parable that Jesus tells the crowds in the Gospel for today. In this story, the farmer plants the wheat seeds in the ordinary way, in broad daylight for everyone to see. But then, another planter, an enemy of the farmer, sneaks in at night, hoping to confuse the farmer by planting different, unwanted plants: weeds. From then on, both seeds are competing for the same soil; both seeds are competing for the same air and water. Both seeds are competing for life.

The idea that an enemy to us, and to the way God intended things to be, has snuck into our lives and is running amuck is consistent to the way we experience things. If there is an enemy to us and to the way God intended things to be, that has taken root in our lives and in the world, it explains the conflicts, the wars, the hatred, the confusion, the violence, and the death that we see and hear about every day and in every place.

The logical response that Jesus places in the story, but then fails to explain to his disciples later, is the request of the workers who want to go out and start pulling up the weeds. “Master, did you not sow good seed? Where did these weeds come from? Certainly you want us to get them out of the field and out of our lives, don’t you?” This is the only thing that makes sense to them, and to us.

You see, we are “weeders” at heart. There is something deep within us that wants to get out there and make things right. It is what we know how to do. We long to accomplish it. But this deep-seated yearning to make everything perfect was not put there by to One who created us. It was put there by an enemy of God. It grows out of the human heart that wants to be his or her own god and control his or her own destiny.

And so it surprises us as much as it would have surprised the original hearers of this teaching story when the master of the house tells his servants, “No. Let the weeds grow.”

“Let the weeds grow!” the Master says to them, and to us. Picking at the weeds is not your job. God will send his angels to take care of that job when the time is right. You and I are just not good enough at it. We are too clumsy. We gouge too deeply, and trample too heavily. People can get hurt. The good, new sprouts in our lives are too tender. And the more we hack at the weeds, the more damage we are doing.

It is not easy to accept this simple invitation to lay off our weeding. It is not easy to trust that the evil we encounter is not evil enough to choke out what is tender and new. Nor is it easy to believe that the good that is sprouting will be good enough to thrive in the middle of a threatening world.

That is why, in today's Second Lesson, Paul gives us a new job; an alternative to "weeding." That job is "hoping." "We are the first fruits," Paul says, "of the Spirit ... waiting for the redemption of our bodies." "Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."

Hoping is actually harder work than weeding. But we are better suited to this good work. Hoping is the work of believing in a future that we cannot see. Hoping is trusting in a promise that has yet to be fulfilled. Hoping is boldly living the life that God is giving us to live, even when it stumbles and falls and seems to get choked off.

The invitation is to trust that the cross and resurrection of Christ is the way that God deals with the Evil One and his busy workers, and turn our attention to nurturing the good seed. There is tender new life struggling to find life in our world and in our hearts. These are the precious gifts of God: our gifts and talents, our aspirations and hopes, our joys and pleasures, our love for life and for others. There are precious sprigs of wheat springing up in the lives of our family and friends.

Despite what it may look like, we are wheat, precious and green and wholesome. We are wheat, the very best our God can imagine for us. We are wheat! And as wheat we shall be harvested, "to shine like the sun in the kingdom of the Father."

Anyone with ears should listen. Let the weeds grow.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Build Us Up, Lord

Text & Music: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952

Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in us a strong foundation.
Lead us to do your holy will; form and shape your new creation.
Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we guide and teach each other,
Help us to share your love with the world: every sister, every brother.

Growing in Christ, we plant seeds for the kingdom;
We follow in faith what's begun!

Lord, set in our heart the pow'r of your word to spread the news of your Son!

Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our lives reflect your glory.
Cast away all our doubts and fears; help us to tell the world your story.
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us to bear good fruit for you,
Lord, give us vision and keep us sure. Grant us faith that's steadfast and true.

OFFERING

Please take a moment to give thanks to God for all that you have received in life, and remember your generous financial support of the ongoing ministry obligations of OSLC.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: God of mercy and grace,
the eyes of all wait upon you,
and you open your hand in blessing.
Fill us with all good things,
that we may come to the help of all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

OFFERING SONG

The Gifts Are Many

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951; Music: English traditional

The gifts are many, the Body one, and into one are all baptized.
Beloved, share one heart, one mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

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 THE PEOPLE

Adapted from the NW Washington Synod "Weekly Prayer Message"...

God of life and breath, you are our source of hope.

+ We give thanks for your precious gifts of love and life; embrace and nurture us in your love; sustain us when we are feeling broken or frightened; open our hearts and minds to hear your word and call; strengthen us to take action to seek justice for our neighbors; grant us courage and creativity to joyfully share your Good News.

We give thanks for your creation.

+ Enable us to be educated, equipped, and inspired to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for our partners at Earth Ministry and Lutherans Restoring Creation.

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

+ We lift up people for whom insecurity, violence, and fear are the norm. Help us to bring healing, wholeness, and safety to all.

+ God of Mercy, guide us to recognize our prejudices and empower us take action to eliminate the racism that permeates our communities and our church. O God, open our eyes, our ears, and our minds. Help us to behold one another as you behold us. Help us to be more firmly rooted in the practices of the gospel—so that the way we live will make real the dream of your beloved community within and among us.

+ We pray for all in the wake of natural disasters, including recent cyclones and tropical storms. Grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild.

+ We lift up all in our community who provide emergency services: medical workers, firefighters, and police. Grant them wisdom and safety.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

+ We pray for those who are facing ongoing challenges and health concerns: Henrik & Patty, Vern, communities across the country, Mike, Pattie, Paul, Lyle, Bodil, Perrin, Marilyn, Dave, Emily, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

+ We continue to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis: bring peace and comfort to the families of those who have died; grant healing for those diagnosed; protect and sustain medical workers, care providers, first responders and chaplains; guide those working to improve testing and those working toward a vaccine; sustain those who are facing financial uncertainty; and help us to be wise as we emerge from our stay at home order.

+ Loving God, you call us to care for our neighbors. Inspire our leaders and guide us to be better advocates for the sake of each member in our community - especially those who have little power and no voice.

+ We pray for our neighbors who are fearful or in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support, and advocate for people who are experiencing domestic violence.

+ We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Empower us to reach out to those who need care and support. For those who are in despair, remember you are loved. You are never beyond God's mercy, grace and love.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness. We lift up the family and friends of Sheila, Dick, Germaine, Bob, Fran, Joe and Don.

We pray for your church:

+ We give thanks for the leaders and members of ministries of our congregation. Grant them energy and creativity for their work; give them grace to rest and find peace.

+ We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those ministries that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, Bethany of the Northwest, and Hearthstone Community.

+ We pray for congregations in the call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where it is that you are leading them. We lift up transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff and lay leaders, and synod staff.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

+ Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Trusting in your mercy and grace, we lift our prayers to you.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

PM: May God the sower,
make you good and fertile soil.
May Christ the seed
bloom and grow in your words and actions.
May the fruitful Spirit
bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.
God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING SONG

You Are Mine — Text & Music: David Haas, b. 1957

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you, and you are mine.

POSTLUDE

Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Mary Magdalene, Apostle, Wednesday, 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, Thursday, 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, Saturday, 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).

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Jen Winslow
Song Leaders:	Lori Downey, Sue Johnson, Alice Lewis, David Hersey, Scott Hafso
Flute:	Jan Hazelton
Videographer:	Elizabeth Waltzer
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: I Kings 3: 5-12; Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso, *Director of Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Readings: Psalm 86: 11-17; Isaiah 44: 16-8

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *For the Fruit of All Creation*

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1900-2000; Music: Welsh traditional

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslcissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Henrik & Patty Christopherson comfort and support after experiencing a house fire. (Dianne Tanner)

Vern Lindquist comfort and recovery from a stroke experienced the week of June 29th.

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Mike Golick continued recovery and safe travel to an assisted living facility in Anchorage, Alaska. (brother-in-law to Patty Gerde)

Mike special ops military unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Pattie Rutten, peace and strength as she recovers from a broken femur and the loss of her husband. (aunt of Mark Howe)

Paul Salazar continued recovery from a heart attack. (step-father to Cheryl Hauser)

Lyle Bentley successful radiation treatment. (Don Robertson)

Bodil Isop healing and comfort from shingles.

Perrin Green 4 years old, unexplained brain activity leading to seizures. (Mary Ann Hult)

Marilyn Grey comfort as she enters hospice care. (mother to Mark Cron)

Linda Chambers comfort and peace following the death of her husband. (sister of Barbara Hinds)

Dave Carlson continued strength, healing and comfort following kidney transplant surgery.

Emily Gacek acquired COVID19 from a caregiver, healing and strength. (Connie Fletcher)

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: **Evy Sneva** (Karen Hansen), **Marian James**; **Douglas Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur**; **Katie Moeller**; **Margot Inman**; **Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson**; **Taufik Hidayut** (Ken

Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas**; **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland**; **Randi Strom**; **Jeanne Kuipers**; **Talton Johnson**; **John Pass**; **Florence Kinnune**; **Carol Harbolt**; **Sandy Aldworth**; **Jen Winslow**; **Larry Pruitt**.

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Amy Aldworth** (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Diane Powis** (Paul Tolo); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson**; **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Richard "Dick" Birdsall** (Dianne Tanner); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Bob Gray** (Doug & Dianne Tanner); **Fran Hildebrand** (Karen Hansen); **Joe Rutten** (uncle of Mark Howe); **Don Brannon** [former member of OSLC] (Rowan Hinds); **Don McWhirter** (Rowan Hinds); **Tim Teodoro** (Janet Heck); **Karen Miley** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms.

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

