

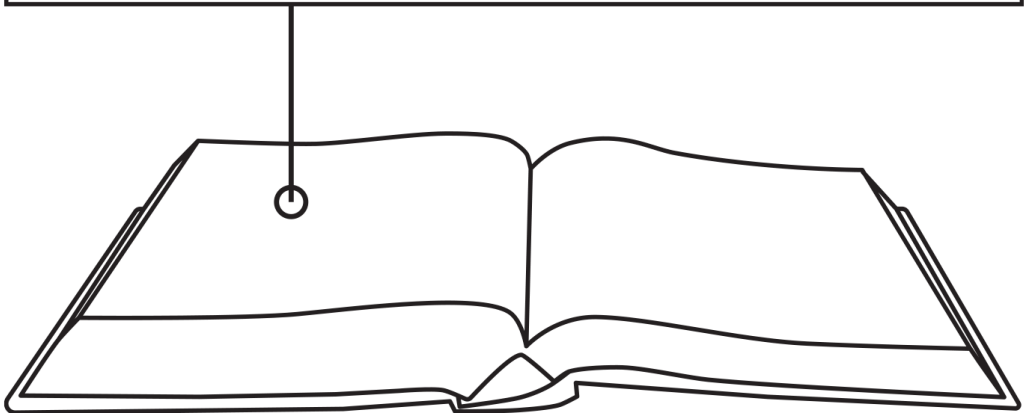
THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2023

Worship Focus

The Christian Lives as Wheat Among Weeds

Define: Christian



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Order of Service for

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Order of Service

The Service of the Word

✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

488 (vs. 1, 4-6) – The Day is Surely Drawing Near



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near when Je - sus, God's a -
4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord and sought but car - nal
5 My Sav - ior paid the debt I owe and for my sin was
6 O Je - sus Christ, do not de - lay, but has - ten our sal -



noint - ed, shall with great maj - es - ty ap - pear as judge of
plea - sures, who here de - spised his pre - cious Word and loved their
smit - ten; with - in the Book of Life I know my name has
va - tion; we of - ten trem - ble on our way in fear and



all ap - point - ed. All mirth and laugh - ter then shall cease when
earth - ly trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand and
now been writ - ten. I will not doubt, for I am free, and
trib - u - la - tion. Your saints are wait - ing pa - tient - ly; come



flames on flames will still in - crease, as Scrip - ture tru - ly teach - es.
at the judg - e's stern com - mand to Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.
Sa - tan can - not threat - en me; there is no con - dem - na - tion!
soon, Re - deem - er, make us free from ev - 'ry e - vil. A - men.

Stand

INVOCATION

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

921 – Come, Thou Almighty King



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, gird on thy might - y sword;
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise. Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
in this glad hour! Thou, who al - might - y art, now rule in
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
Word suc - cess, and let thy right - eous - ness on us de - scend.
ev - 'ry heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy hereafter; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated

✠ The Word ✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-11

Like wheat among weeds, Christians live surrounded by evil in this world. But God promises that the presence of evil in this world does not mean that God doesn't care for us.

ISAIAH 44:6 "This is what the LORD says—

Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:
I am the first and I am the last;
apart from me there is no God.

⁷Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and lay out before me
what has happened since I established my ancient people,
and what is yet to come—
yes, let them foretell what will come.

⁸Do not tremble, do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?
You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?
No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

⁹All who make idols are nothing,
and the things they treasure are worthless.

Those who would speak up for them are blind;
they are ignorant, to their own shame.

¹⁰Who shapes a god and casts an idol,
which can profit nothing?

¹¹People who do that will be put to shame;
such craftsmen are only human beings.

Let them all come together and take their stand;
they will be brought down to terror and shame.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 19

Refrain

Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

Tone

The heavens declare the glo- / ry of God;
the skies proclaim the work / of his hands.
Their voice goes out into / all the earth,
their words to the ends / of the world.

Refrain

The law of the LORD is / perfect,
refresh- / ing the soul.
The commands of the LORD are / radiant,
giving light / to the eyes.
They are more pre- / cious than gold;
they are sweeter than / honey.

Refrain

May these words of my mouth and this meditation / of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my rock and my Re- / deemer.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

SECOND READING

Romans 1:18-25

Jesus' parable about the wheat and weeds could give the impression that God is ambivalent about evil. But God's wrath is real and will be fully revealed at the harvest.

ROMANS 1:18¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

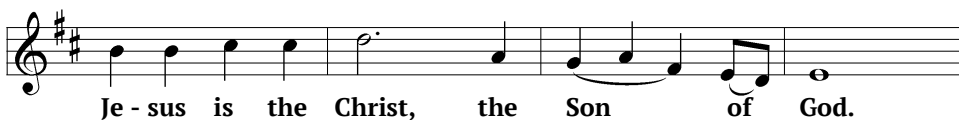
²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

*The Lord has a plan to separate wheat and weeds.
Christians will be perfectly separated from every evil at the final harvest.*

MATTHEW 13:24 Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸“‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹“‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”...

... ³⁶Then he left the crowd 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, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²They will throw them into the blazing 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, let them hear.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

Matthew 13:24-30



- 1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
- 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
 gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, shall pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come with all your an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

✠ Sermon ✠

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Visible Church Has a Double Life

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS and MUSICAL OFFERING

*We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of
God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.*

Offerings can be given in any of four ways:

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



*Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card, or by filling out
the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection
Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website,
<https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the code to the le*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

You may remain seated for prayer

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For certainty that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For wisdom to steward God's creation well, until new life supplants the groanings of this age, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who care for the elderly in their homes or other facilities, that they might be instruments of comfort and company to the lonely, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who do not repent or believe, that God would be patient with them, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; and that He would send His Holy Spirit to bring them into saving faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all leaders, that in the face of conflict and discord they would work for peace and justice, especially protecting the weak and defenseless, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who endure the bondage of decay through infirmity and weakness, [*especially _____,*] that their faith would be preserved and their sufferings be considered incomparable to the glory to be revealed in them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, You have called us according to Your purpose. You cause all things to work together for our good. Keep us safe until that day when You gather us with the saints into Your kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

641 (vs. 1-4) – Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, with us a - bide, for round us
 2 In these last days of sore dis - tress grant us, dear
 3 O God, how sin's dread works a - bound! Through-out the
 4 Lord Je - sus, help, your Church up - hold, for we are



falls the e - ven - tide, nor let your Word,
 Lord, true stead - fast - ness that pure we keep,
 earth no rest is found, and false-hood's spir -
 slug - gish, thought - less, cold. O pros - per well



that heav'n-ly light, for us be ev - er veiled in night.
 till life is spent, your ho - ly Word and sac - ra - ment.
 it wide has spread, and er - ror bold - ly rears its head.
 your Word of grace, and spread its truth in ev - 'ry place.

Stand

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

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.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

605 – From All That Dwell Below the Skies



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre -
2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal



a - tor's praise a - rise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
truth at - tends your Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung through ev - 'ry
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall



land, by ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
rise and set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.