



THE  
PARABLE  
OF THE  
WEEDS

Matthew 13:24-30

July 23, 2022

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
38801 Blacow Road  
Fremont, CA 94536  
Church: (510) 793-6285

July 23, 2022  
10 AM – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity  
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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## WELCOME TO THE STORY

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*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.*

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## A Story that Invites Us

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All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

## SINGING BOWL

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*P: The peace of God is with you all.*

**All: And also with you.**

Please safely share the peace with each other.

Please Stand

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism.

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love endures forever.*

**All: Amen.**

*P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

*P: Merciful God,*

**All: we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

*P: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.*

**All: We are free to love as God loves. Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, open your hearts, and listen for the voice of God.

**All: We open our hearts to love one another.**

L: Come, open your minds, and receive the Spirit of wisdom.

**All: We open our minds to new understanding and insight.**

L: Come, open your senses, and experience our Creator at work.

**All: We open ourselves to the work of God around us.**

L: Come, open your arms, awake and arise, for God is calling you.

**All: We join in the worship of our awesome God.**

**OPENING HYMN: “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!” vs. 1,2**

Favorite Hymn of Sharon Chu



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!  
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.

**GREETING**

*P: The Spirit of God is here,*

**All: calling us to worship and praise.**

*P: The Spirit delights in our presence,*

**All: rejoicing alongside us.**

*P: The Spirit of Truth is still speaking,*

**All: granting wisdom for our lives today.**

## LITANY

L: Holy Mystery, we yearn to grow closer to you this day.  
When our spirits grow unsettled,

**All: meet us in our need.**

L: When we seek isolation from the rancor of our time,

**All: remind us how the wheat and weeds grow together  
until the harvest.**

L: When we feel captive to the pressures of this world,

**All: remind us that we need not succumb to our fears, for  
you have given us a spirit of adoption as children of  
God.**

L: Pursue us and hold us near, Gentle One,

**All: that we may truly be set free. Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

I Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

*Refrain*

for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-

est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



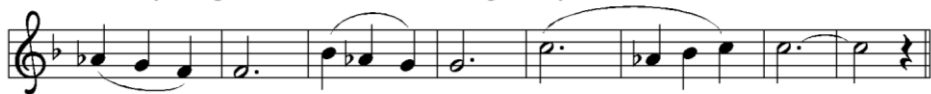
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

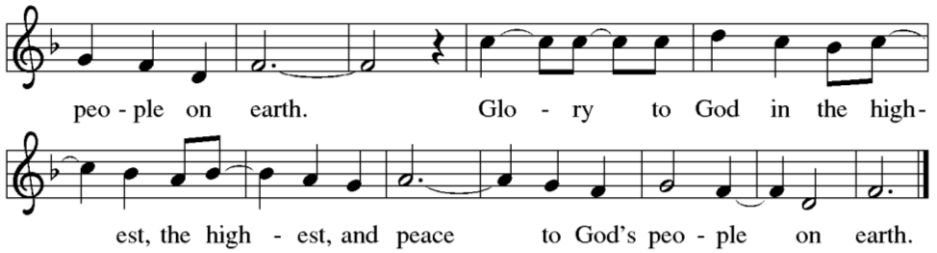


A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Final refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's



## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L:** Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion.

**All:** **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. Amen.**

Be Seated

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## The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

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### INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

**Reader:** The first reading is from Isaiah, chapter forty-four, beginning with the sixth verse.

### **FIRST READING:** *Isaiah 44:6-8*

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

The second reading is from Romans, chapter eight, beginning with the twelfth verse.

**SECOND READING:** *Romans 8:12-25*

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

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 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. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; 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. For in hope we were saved. 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.

Reader: Here ends the reading. Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*P:* *The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.*

**All:** **Glory to you, O God.**

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

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

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

*P: The Gospel, the good news of God.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be Seated

**CHILDREN’S TIME** – Carmen Blair



Please Stand

**HYMN:** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” vs. 1,3  
Favorite Hymn of Collette Koski



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no  
3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-  
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!



*Refrain*  
Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Be Seated

**MESSAGE** – Pastor John Bost

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**A Story that Feeds Us**

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**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**L:** May the offerings we bring this day be used as seeds, planted faithfully and nurtured lovingly so that God’s way may be realized anew in this world.

**All:** **Grant us the humility we need to plant and then tend your precious garden.**

# THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.  
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Touch these gifts, O God,

**All: with your manifold blessings.**

L: Touch our very lives,

**All: that we may be instruments of your hope.**

L: May our gifts and our lives,

**All: bring your healing, love, and compassion to a world in need. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

L: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation. O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: God of all, hear now the prayers of our heart said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

L: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

L: God is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to God.**

L: Let us give thanks to God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.*

*And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*P: 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.*



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*P:* Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.

**All:** 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.

## FRACTION RITE

*P:* Everyone who hungers, come to the table.

**All:** We will eat what is good, that we may live.

### Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord's Table  
after the Lamb of God is sung.

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Holy Communion is open to all.  
 Grape juice is white, wine is red.  
 Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.  
 Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

**COMMUNION HYMN: "What Child Is This"**  
 Favorite Hymn of Carmen Blair



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



**TAKE AND EAT  
 DRINK**



# COMMUNION HYMN: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

## Favorite Hymn of Ann Harren



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

## SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: *We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.*

**All: Amen.**

Be Seated

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

# A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

## BENEDICTION

*P:* The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed, bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

**All:** Amen.

## SENDING HYMN: "Lead Me, Guide Me" vs. 1,3

Favorite Hymn of Faye Williams

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;  
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.  
1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.  
Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

All: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

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For in this  
**HOPE**  
we were  
**SAVED.**

Romans 8:24

