



*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.*

## **WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.**

*Individuals need to follow healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a cloth face covering... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed. [The Center for Disease Control] Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, and regrettably refrain from singing or speaking together through the service as a congregation.*

## **SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972**

**570-385-2657 \* [www.jerusalemchurch.com](http://www.jerusalemchurch.com)**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

## GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

**(8:00) Saviour Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

**William Bradbury/ arr. Diane Bish**

**(10:30) A Hymn Medley**

**Guitar, Linda Covert and Piano, Audrey Christ**

*The bell rings calling us to worship.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. 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.**

- 1 Dearest Jesus, at your word  
we have come again to hear you;  
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you  
as the promises here given  
draw us wholly up to heaven.
- 2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight  
lie in deepest darkness shrouded  
till your Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded.  
All good thoughts and all good living  
come but by your gracious giving.
- 3 Radiance of God's glory bright,  
Light of light from God proceeding,  
Jesus, send your blessed light;  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,  
that our prayers and songs may please you,  
as with grateful hearts we praise you.
- 4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
praise to you and adoration!  
Grant us what we need the most:  
all your gospel's consolation  
while we here on earth await you,  
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

*Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; Gesangbuch, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.*

## GREETING

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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

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.**

## READING FROM THE CHURCH'S SCRIPTURES

**Romans 8:12-25**

*The assembly is seated.*

<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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

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

*The assembly stands for the gospel.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.**

## SERMON FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

*The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Christ, Our Hope*

# 604

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

- 1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,  
creation's mighty Lord,  
redeemer of the fallen world,  
by holy love outpoured,  
by holy love outpoured:
- 2 How vast your mercy to accept  
the burden of our sin,  
and bow your head in cruel death  
to make us clean within,  
to make us clean within.
- 3 But now the bonds of death are burst,  
the ransom has been paid;  
you reign above at God's right hand,  
in robes of light arrayed,  
in robes of light arrayed.
- 4 Oh, let your mighty love prevail  
to purge us of our pride,  
that we may stand before your throne  
by mercy purified,  
by mercy purified.
- 5 All praise to you, ascended Lord;  
all glory ever be  
to Father, Son, and Spirit blest  
through all eternity,  
through all eternity!

*Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.*

### APOSTLES CREED

*We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.*

**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 INTERCESSION**

*As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.*

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. Inspire your church throughout the world to be diligent and patient, and 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. Bring healing to humanity during this coronavirus pandemic, and raise up wise scientists and leaders throughout the world. 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 fear, war, poverty, hunger, racism, and violence. 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 people who are lonely and abandoned, who feel trapped by despair, and all who suffer in any way, especially those whom we now raise in prayer before you... Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of the seasons, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment and renewal, even in this time when many activities in daily life are restricted. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. We pray for medical caregivers and essential workers. We pray for administrators, teachers, staff, and students, as options are considered for the new school year. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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. 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.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

*The presiding minister invites the assembly to give thanks.*

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

*We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!*

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly may be seated.*

## BLESSING

*The assembly stands. The presiding minister proclaims God's 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.**

## SENDING SONG

*Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

# 548

- 1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,  
from this meal of love and grace;  
may we through such love envision  
whose we are, and whose, our praise.  
Alleluia, alleluia;  
God, the wonder of our days.
- 2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow  
after Christ, though wounded, whole;  
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed  
to release and to console.  
Alleluia, alleluia;  
Christ, our present, past, and goal.
- 3 Rise, remember well the future  
God has called us to receive;  
present by God's loving nurture,  
Spirited then let us live.  
Alleluia, alleluia;  
Spirit, grace by whom we live.
- 4 Service be our sure vocation;  
courage be our daily breath;  
mercy be our destination  
from this day and unto death.  
Alleluia, alleluia.  
Rise, O church, a living faith.

*Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953. Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.*



## DISMISSAL

*The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Love Divine*

arr. Bradley Sowash

## OFFERING

*You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave.*

*If you are worshiping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.*

*To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.*

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## MINISTRY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Charles Gurski, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Gemma Geary, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Denny Starr, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Ron Gill, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Sherry and Kim Zulick, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser

### **Those with Long-term health issues:**

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Drenzo, Bill Gordon, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Stefich, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger,

Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Kay LeBoeuf, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson

**Those serving in the Armed Forces:**

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

**THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES** are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Reta Rhodes on what would have been her 91st Birthday by Samantha Rhodes.

**THANK YOU TO** today's cantors: 8:00am – Audrey Christ and 10:30am – Jim Covert.

**COUNTERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>** are Linda Collins, Deb Reed, and Marie Shay.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.** Due to COVID-19, we will hand out Vacation Bible School packets through a Drive-Thru format. The packs will include materials for crafts, snacks, and bible stories. We will also be uploading interactive bible stories and songs through our website ([jerusalem.lutheran.com](http://jerusalem.lutheran.com)). Please register for a VBS packet by visiting <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044da5ac2aaafa7-vbs>.

**Pickup will be THIS Friday, July 24th, from 6-7 pm at the front entrance to the church.**

**OUR FIRST COFFEE HOUR** during the pandemic will be held outside (weather permitting, rain date August 9<sup>th</sup>) under the covered walkway on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Beverages will be safely served, and snacks will be individually wrapped. With social distancing and masks we feel that we can safely linger after each service for conversation and fellowship. However, because this will certainly be more work, Faith Batz needs additional help, and we will not be offering refreshments every week. Nevertheless, we look forward to this opportunity to catch up with one another after months apart.

**HOLY COMMUNION** will not yet be offered even though many of us hunger for its sacramental promise and Christ's presence. In this matter there are a variety of understandings and practices throughout the church, and even in the Lutheran Church, but we are listening to both the counsel of our bishop and the recommendations of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. At the present time we are not offering the Lord's Supper because although some of the concerns about distancing, masking and unmasking, and the distribution of Communion can be addressed, a Lutheran consensus has not yet emerged about how to celebrate the Lord's Supper safely and with theological integrity. When we do begin offering the Eucharist again, we will also need to find ways to extend the Lord's Table to include the larger number of people who are staying at home due to their vulnerability.

**VIDEOS OF WORSHIP** will be recorded each Sunday, and then uploaded to YouTube and our website ([jerusalem.lutheran.com](http://jerusalem.lutheran.com)) to be available Monday afternoon. The recording posted on the internet, and the bulletin and sermon mailed to those who do not have computer access, will continue so that the additional people who have health conditions and therefore should not gather with us for worship, are included in our weekly worship.

**OUR CORONAVIRUS TASK FORCE**, the Worship and Music Committee, and the Church Council, have been studying, discussing and prayerfully discerning many documents and guidelines over the past several months. If you have any questions, please talk to them. The Task Force includes Deb Reed (council president), Donald Boyer (a retired school superintendent), Jane Mahoney (a retired nurse with experience in infection control), and Pastor Rowe. Please thank them for their hard work (often meeting weekly by video conference), and continue to pray for them.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE FEWER, YET STILL IMPORTANT!** Instead of usher and greeters, we are using a handful of guides who have been trained in the safer practices that we have developed for gathering. In addition, assisting ministers will serve as lectors to maintain distance in the chancel and avoid sharing the same surfaces that cannot be disinfected between people. We may tweak these practices in the weeks ahead, and then we will invite more people to be oriented and serve as guides and assisting ministers. Please see Jane Mahoney if you are interested. Also, please see Audrey Christ if you would like to be a cantor.

**SOUND BOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** We are currently looking for volunteers to run the sound board. Please contact Melissa Boyer if interested 570-789-1813.

**PASTORAL VISITATION** has had to change in this time of pandemic, even as we move forward. Consider this sobering recommendation from an ecumenical document developed by medical and pastoral leaders of the Methodist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Lutheran Church: “Until the threat posed by COVID-19 is truly gone, we do not commend resuming pastoral caregiving visits inside homes, hospitals, or nursing care centers except for very brief times and only when most necessary, such as near death. [Care-Filled... Life, p. 32].” Therefore, for mutual protection, with the support of our Church Council Pastor Rowe will not be visiting unless the need is dire. Phone calls will be used instead, and all of us will share in the mutual care for one another, especially those most vulnerable and close to us. Please feel free to call Pastor Rowe at 570-933-5511.

**ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES!** If the Coronavirus has put stress on your marriage, you are not alone! Lutheran Marriage Encounter has scheduled a couple of Weekends this fall, and we believe that you will find that attending a Weekend will help you renew and revitalize your marital relationship no matter whether your marriage is in great shape or if you could really use some help.

The Weekends currently scheduled are: September 18-20 at the Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster PA and

October 16-18 at the Olmsted Retreat in Ludlow, PA, an hour north of Pittsburgh. For more information, please see Joanne & Lloyd Wertz.

## **STAFF AND LEADERS**

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