

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**



**Faith Lutheran Church
310 Southdale Rd. E.
London, Ontario
N6E 1A1**

AS WE GATHER: *The God of Israel calls on His people to worship Him and Him alone (Isaiah 44:6-8). Recognizing that life in this world must also include "weeds" among the wheat, Jesus forbids us to make the final judgment. That is reserved for God alone. Amongst the harsh warnings of the day, St. Paul's gentle, assuring words in Romans call upon us to lean upon this Rock of a God for our strength.*

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

SHARING OF PEACE: We greet one another with the peace of Christ.

OPENING HYMN: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (LSB 700)



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of
 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in
 all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

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THE INVOCATION:

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: St. Paul promises that "The Spirit helps us in our weakness."

Therefore by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us confess our sins before God, our Father.

Compassionate Father You are the one, true Lord - the very Rock of our salvation.

C: Forgive our wanderings after other gods. Where we pursue pleasure and offer our lives to greed and false gods of security, forgive us.

P: God of the heart, You know our innermost needs and desires.
C: Forgive our half-hearted worship, our frail prayers, our failure to call upon You in our weakness. God of the heart, forgive us.

P: God of the Kingdom, You have sown good seed in our hearts through Your holy Word and Sacraments.

C: Forgive our attempt to discern wheat from weeds. Forgive our neglect of Your Word and sacraments. God of the Kingdom, forgive us.

P: Let those who have ears to hear, listen to this glorious promise! The God who is the Rock of our Salvation, the strength in our weakness, is a forgiving God. He has given Jesus Christ to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sin. This God sends us His Holy Spirit to keep us in the true faith and make us whole.

As a called and ordained servant of the Word, speaking in the name and by the command of Jesus Christ, I forgive your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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 Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 44:6-8 [Is there a God beside the Lord?]

⁶ 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. ⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:18-27 [The suffering of this present age are not worth comparing to the glory waiting to be revealed.]

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 [Then the righteous shall shine like the sun.]

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.



²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather 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 came to 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 is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons 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 gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostle's Creed.

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

SERMON HYMN: Christ Sits at God's Right Hand (LSB 564)



1 Christ sits at God's right hand, His sav - ing work com - plete,
2 Christ was that priest God swore, U - nique - ly First and Last,
3 Christ's al - tar was the tree, Where on the world's be - half
4 What cost - ly sac - ri - fice To cov - er hu - man sin!



To reign till ev - 'ry foe will lie Be - neath His feet—
Who would in righ - teous - ness and love Be un - sur - passed:
He shed a blood, un - like the blood Of goat or calf,
Who but Christ Je - sus had the right To en - ter in?



All that the Fa - ther planned, The Son sought to ful - fill,
"A priest for - ev - er - more," An oath God would not break,
To seal God's guar - an - tee Of grace that can - not fail;
His blood, that sprin - kled price, So we might be as - sured



When first He said, "Lord, here am I To do Your will."
"A priest with - in the or - der of Mel - chiz - e - dek."
With blood He en - tered for our good Be - hind the veil.
That our in - her - i - tance in light Has been se - cured.

5 Then let us now draw near,
Washed in that precious flood
And enter the Most Holy Place
By Jesus' blood.
From hearts that are sincere,
Let tongues our hope profess,

And trust anew God's faithful grace
That we confess.

6 All praise to Christ we bring,
Our Lord who intercedes,
Our great High Priest enthroned above
Who knows our needs;
And to the Father sing
Our songs of thankful praise,
Who with the Spirit reigns in love
For endless days.

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SERMON: "God Is Merciful" - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

OFFERING HYMN: On What Has Now Been Sown (LSB 921)



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

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THE PRAYERS:

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. That the Church be empowered to grow in grace and the knowledge of the truth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: That the Church be given the wisdom and guidance of the Spirit so that God's will be done through her work, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: That the whole Church on earth and this congregation proclaim that God is our Redeemer, that there is no other god besides the one God who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: That in the face of conflicts and discord that continually erupt around the world, the leaders of nations would be inspired to work for peace and justice, providing protection especially for the weak and defenceless, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: That strengthened through the gifts given in this assembly, all God's people, and especially those suffering loneliness and others who are suffering great temptation, might put away fear and live in confident faith in the rock of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: That God would hear the prayers of the elderly, those needing care for chronic illness, those who are sick (especially ____) that in their weakness, the Spirit might give full expression to the groanings of their prayers, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: That Our Lord visit the homes in which His people dwell, and

keep all harm and danger far from them (especially we remember____) that they dwell together in peace under the protection of His holy angels, sharing eternally in His blessings, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: That those who observe a birthday or anniversary give thanks to the Father of all mercies for His continued preservation (especially____) that they continue to grow in wisdom and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Giving thanks for the saints who have gone before us and who know fully what for us is yet to be, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

BENEDICTION:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favour and † give you peace.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (LSB 892)



1 Come, ye 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 Thy fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
Wheat and tares 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 Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth 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 tares to cast,
There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy 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 Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har-vest home.

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