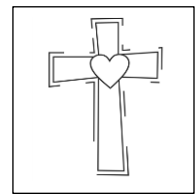


Perley Lutheran Parish
July 19th
Lectionary 16



Welcome and Announcements

- So excited to have us gathered – in our cars this morning – together for worship!
- Devotions happening on Wednesday evenings at 7pm – Where's Michele is going well – don't forget to send in your guesses on where she is at – perleyparish@gmail.com or 218-861-6541 or text/call Michele at 701-261-0998
mjenson001@luthersem.edu
- Next Sunday – July 26th – Drive-in Worship at Kirkebo 9AM – communion will be served.
- We continue to monitor the COVID crisis and watch for implementation of our Re-Opening Plan
- Continue to send in your offerings. Keep in touch – if you need something please reach out and invite friends to watch!

Confession and Forgiveness:

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

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; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness in 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.

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.

Psalms 86:11-17 (Read Responsively)

Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. **I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.** For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. **O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.** But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. **Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.** Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

First Reading Isaiah 44:5-8

This one will say, "I am the LORD's," another will be called by the name of Jacob, yet another will write on the hand, "The LORD's," and adopt the name of Israel. 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.

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, **Glory to you O Lord**

He put before them 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!

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

Hello, children of God! Guess what? I hope you brought your garden tools with you, because we have another plant story to discuss today! Remember that we recently talked about different soils, and what plants need to grow. We mentioned weeds, and in the parable we look at today, we are going to consider weeds in particular. I need to ask you something first, though. I want you to help me identify some things I have here, can you do that?

So first, I have here some plants: do you know what they are? (*Hold up various types of weeds, some that look like flowers; hold up a couple of flowers, as well. Allow students to guess which are which.*)

It's a little tricky to tell them apart in some cases, isn't it? A lot of these are weeds that should probably get plucked out of a garden, but sometimes the weeds look like flowers. Speaking of which, I want to show you some pictures of flowers. (*Hold up photos of two plants: one poisonous and one harmless.*)

Now, the point is that it is difficult for us to discern by appearance which things are good, and which are bad. We can't always tell just by looking, if we don't have the right understanding or knowledge about things. Well, in today's parable, Jesus talked about how some weeds got mixed in among good seeds. A farmer was planting, but an enemy came and threw in some weed plants so that they would get mixed up with the wheat. The workers asked if they should try to pluck them out, and the farmer told them to wait until they grew, and then let the farmer decide which ones were good and which needed tossed out.

What in the world does that mean for us? Well, God is like that farmer. He is the ultimate judge of men's hearts. In the end, there are some people who will reject God's grace, and will not go to Heaven. But it is not our job to decide who those people are. We may sometimes be tempted to look at someone's appearance or actions, and think that they are evil, or that they should be thrown out of the church or ignored or cast aside.

We might hope to huddle together in our own “bubble” of righteousness, and we might point fingers and think we know better than other people. That’s simply not true. We don’t know what is in the hearts of those around us. We don’t get to play judge or condemn certain people.

The truth is, all of us are sinful. We are only saved by the blood of Jesus, which is a blessed and wonderful thing! In the end, God’s desire is that all people would come to know Him. He is a just judge, but He loves all of His people and wants them to love Him. He doesn’t force it, but He desires our hearts. Rather than judging or shutting out people who seem different from us, we should pray for them. We should ask God to soften the hearts of those that are unkind, and to use us to bring others into His family. Why don’t we pray for that right now?

Dear God, Thank you for your grace. You have sent your son for all people. Help us to love as you do to not judge one another and bring others to a knowledge of you. Thank you for your love. We love you, God! In Jesus name, Amen!

Message:

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

This morning we continue to delve into another parable. Last week we heard and learned about the Parable of the Sower and how Jesus spoke about the different soils on which the seeds could and couldn’t grow. How all of that parable was a reference to us being sowers and that we were to spread the Word of God amongst all people – whether it fell on people who would let the Word grow or whether it fell on those who would let it die upon their hearing. This week we are once again in the field or the garden, and once again Jesus is teaching them and us a lesson through the planting and harvesting of crops, and of course, those awful weeds that come with them.

Again, I will reference my little garden that I am working diligently to grow this year. I have to admit that while it is going well, I get really frustrated when I go out to water and there is a new and bountiful growth of weeds each and every time. Of course I approach my garden looking for and caring for the plants that I planted – I planted tomatoes, I planted peppers, I planted beans and I planted a few carrots. That is what my garden should be growing, and yet, there seems to be many other things growing in there – things that I clearly did not plant and therefore I don’t want to be growing! Weeds are an annoyance to all of us trying to grow something and we try sometimes anything and everything to get rid of them.

My grandkids and I spent quite a while watching a plane spraying a field the other day - remember we are city kids so we were entertained for quite some time. That of course is one way to get rid of those weeds – especially on a bigger scale. There is also that tedious task of pulling weeds by hand – one by one. Sometimes their roots are so deep we even have to dig them out and other times we may need to even make a trip to Menards or Home Depot or Lowes to find a spray or powder that can take care of the job. Anything, yes almost anything, that will get rid of those weeds and allow our crops to prosper.

It’s our nature to want to get rid of those weeds – but that’s not the case for Jesus. In our Gospel today we hear this. Let’s listen to that part again *“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?’”* ²⁸ *He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’* ²⁹ *But he replied, ‘No;’*”. That sounds a bit odd doesn’t it – why wouldn’t you want to get them out of your crop? Don’t they take up space? Don’t they take up nutrients in the soil that your plants need? Couldn’t they take up the sunlight that your plants need? But then again, what can happen to the good plants when you kill the weeds?

I will never forget the year that I had dandelions take over my yard. It was a real bumper crop of those little yellow flowers and I had had enough. I went to Menards and picked up what I thought was going to be a

weed killer to take them out. Apparently I picked up something much different – actually much more - than a weed killer and I woke up the next day to a poke-a-dot lawn in which I had not only killed the dandelions but I had killed circles of grass everywhere in my yard. It was awful!! This example, perhaps, may help us change the picture and the understanding of our story. We want to get rid of the weeds but we want to make sure that we aren't harming the plants so they can continue to grow and be fruitful.

Our parable this morning is there to help us get clarity. As Christians grounded in the Word of God, it's clear what's right and wrong, right? Unfortunately, there are too many not grounded in God, too many who don't know right from wrong – after all right and wrong is whatever you choose it to be. We live in a world that is very unclear about what is good and what is evil so it can be very confusing.

And even as a Christian that can be a confusion or struggle. I mean, why should I believe - if my world is being impacted by those who don't believe? Why should I show up on Sunday mornings when so much of this world has decided that organized religion is a thing of the past? Why should I go out of my way to do kind and good things for others when some are going out of their way to do the opposite? I think about my little hometown Taste Freez. It's just blocks away from my house and has been a part of my family's lives, myself as a child, my children as they grew up and now my grandchildren growing up. They have been part of the neighborhood and part of the city and have done generous and giving things for the community over the years. Why then would some go in and destroy it – break and vandalize the building and cut the electricity to melt all of the product and supplies they had? Its stories like this and actions like this that can really show parallels to our parable today.

Imagine that we – the believers, the Christians, those that live to do good – are the wheat in our parable. Jesus wants us to grow and spread the good news and the good Word to others. Then also imagine that the enemy are those that do bad, that ravage the good in the world and do for themselves rather than for others – they are the weeds in our story. Jesus is being clear that we live in a world where there are both good and bad – both wheat and weeds – and that we live together, side by side.

What does Jesus do about this- the wheat and the weeds growing together? Our passage says he tells them NOT to take care of the weeds. ²⁹ *But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ 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.'*" Like this field – our world today has both good and evil growing. Against all odds, the church continues to be a part of this world despite all the evil and all the competition of our time and our lives and our beliefs.

Well if God tolerates the evil do you think that means he approves of it? So many bad things continue to grow and thrive in our world today – evil and harm to others, terrorism and oppression, pandemics and diseases – the lists go on and on. Does God think that's ok – of course not! Jesus makes that clear to us in this parable.

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

Evil is a part of our world and sin is so deeply entrenched in our lives that to eliminate that sin and that evil would ultimately lead to our own destruction. We all would be cut down by our own attempt to rid the weeds in our lives because we all ARE weeds and sinners of course. All of us were baptized both as Sinners and as Saints and while trying to pull up the Sinner we would also be uprooting the Saint. For example, what if I were to try to weed out those in our congregation gathered here today that have sinned? Would there be anyone

left? What if I asked everyone who trusted in something in their life other than God or asked anyone who has ever cursed in God's name or asked anyone who has failed to pray and give thanks to God to leave? Would any of us be allowed to stay?? I know I wouldn't be here.

Thankfully we can rejoice and be glad in our parable today and the message that it provides. There will be no sorting between the good and evil, the Saint and the Sinner, before the end of our time. The church is not given the task of getting rid of, or eliminating the sin in this world but rather it is tasked – we are tasked - to go out and spread that good news of Christ's death and resurrection to those who are sinners.

The great news this morning is that the One who directs the harvesting and the Angels directed to do the final sorting is the same One who died for you and me. The same One who forgives us and offers us His body and His blood. The same One who promises us everlasting life and a God who is with us through it all. We are all a precious harvest to Jesus, a planted crop and field of bounty, so precious that He is willing to put up with all those weeds just for you and me. Thanks be to this loving God! Amen

Hymn of the Day: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

No merit of my own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest of his unchanging grace.

In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**)

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy and always ready to forgive. Grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

God of harvest, you sow the good seed of the gospel of Jesus Christ into your field. Help your church throughout the world to be both diligent and patient, full of resolve and gentleness, that our witness may be faithful to your intentions. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

God of companionship, we look to you for encouragement that we can live in and have relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Bless our conversations. Teach us your ways, that we may walk in your truth. Mend the fabric of the human family, now torn apart by our fearful and worrying ways. Guide us by your mercy, grace, and steadfast love. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out. Hear us, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

Protecting God, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict – be it from safe practices because of COVID or from racial disparity. God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

God of the season, in the midst of summer, give us refreshment, renewal, and new opportunities. We pray for the safety of those who travel. We pray for those who cannot take the rest they need. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely or struggling. Heal those within our congregations and friends of our members like Alana and Jeff and Kirk and all those that join us through streaming who are in need of peace and healing. We ask that you be with those that we now name in our hearts as well..... Hear us, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize when you are leading us. Teach us how live more faithfully and fully with each other. Hear us, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and be with us now as we say the prayer that Jesus taught to 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.
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

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 Hymn: Come, You Thankful People Come

Come you thankful people come; Raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin
God, our maker, does provide For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to your final harvest home.
Gather all your people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, In your garner to abide.
Come, with all your angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home!

Dismissal:

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

Pastor Intern Michele Jenson: Phone: 701-261-0998 Email: mjenson001@luthersem.edu Web Page: www.perleyparish.org Email: perleyparish@gmail.com

Parable of the Weeds



The Parable of the Weeds

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. Mathew 28:26 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:24-29



M A V W H F Q B B E W G Q I S
H R M P S Y I U K D Y H O A J
C L G A T U A E F I F H E O B
J F R R E A P S L M N Y O A D
O H O A Q W K R O D M G P T T
T T W B M C S X O E V V D P A
D D E L F G J E N O B U T O D
X A H E V T C E E X T K R J M
B G J A V I U C A D D L N C H
M C W H R M X Z Q V V E M J A
G Q C E R V J M D P V W V B Y
L G A R E L E X P A U P D U Y
S O W J B D T S E A G L Z R K
J W O V U T S H T S X B L N O
O X T V D G V N L L C M T I H

SOW
WHEAT
PARABLE

FIELD
ENEMY
HEAVEN

GOOD
PULL
BURN

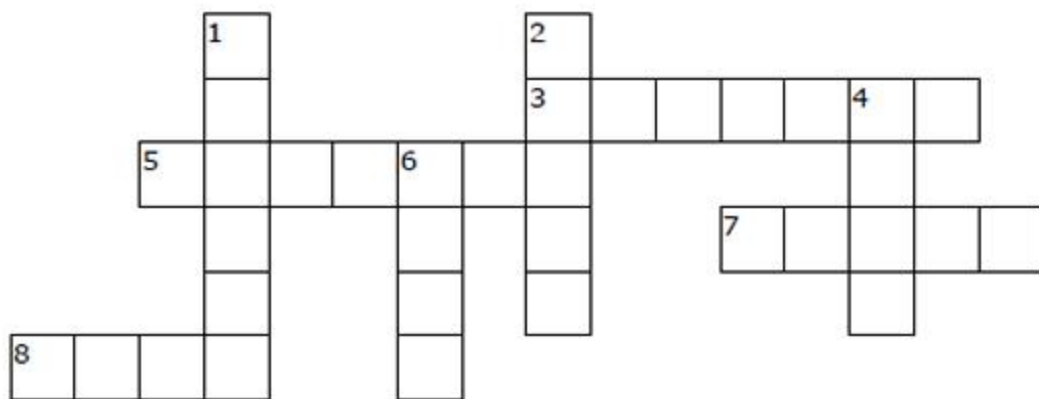
UPROOT
KINGDOM
GROW

HARVEST
SEED
WEEDS

The Parable of the Weeds

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. Mathew 28:26 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Matthew 13: 24-29



ACROSS

- 3. The time for gathering crops
- 5. Stories told by Jesus to teach his followers
- 7. A plant that crowds out the good plants
- 8. A building used for storing grain and housing farm animals

DOWN

- 1. The place where God is
- 2. A grain that is ground into flour used in cooking
- 4. A small pod placed in the ground to grow a plant
- 6. To damage or destroy by fire

WEEDS	BURN	SEED	HARVEST
HEAVEN	WHEAT	BARN	PARABLE