

Contemporary Worship

July 19, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 16

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

Blessed Be Your Name – Redman/Redman

*Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name.*

*Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness, blessed be Your name.*

*Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.
And when the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say.*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord, blessed be Your glorious name.*

*Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me
When the world's "all as it should be", blessed be Your name.*

*Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering, blessed be Your name.*

*Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.
And when the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say.*

*You give and take away. You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say, Lord, blessed be Your name.*

WELCOME

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING SONG *

Bring Forth the Kingdom

A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.

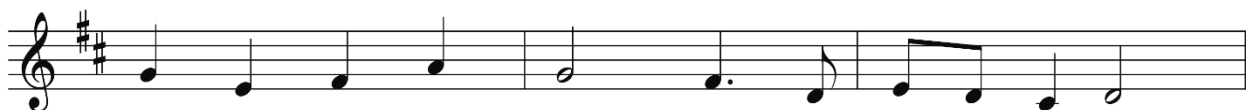
Verses



1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple:
4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:



Salt for the King-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of
Light for the Cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and
Bring forth the King-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and
Bound for the King-dom of God! Love our jour - ney and



life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!
bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King-dom of God!
seeds of jus - tice, Grow in the King-dom of God!
love our home - land: Love is the King-dom of God!

Refrain



Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the



King-dom of peace; Bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice,



Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

HOLY GOSPEL*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

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

Assembly: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ 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, 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.' "

³⁶ 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." ³⁷ He answered, "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 listen!"

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG *

Sanctuary

Verse 1: Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Verse 2: When You come in shouts of glory,
and my work here on earth is done
How I long to hear You saying, "Faithful servant well done."

"Sanctuary" words and music by John W. Thompson & Randy Scruggs

Second verse, www.songlyrics.com, public domain

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PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "God of grace,"

Assembly: hear our prayer.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "the abundant grace of Christ Jesus."

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

*The assembly greets each other with
"peace be with you...and also with you."*

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.

If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

OFFERING

My Life Is an Offering – Sczebel/Sczebel

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.



*This life is an altar where I want to offer
My soul and my mind and strength.
Cleansed by Your mercy to live a life worthy
Of the One Who called my name.*

*Jesus, be glorified. Jesus, be magnified.
Let me be a pleasing sacrifice.
Jesus, be glorified. Jesus, be magnified
Here at the altar, my life is an offering.*

*How could I not love You?
You authored my rescue, raised me up from death to life.
Your Spirit is in me, revealing Your glory;
Oh, what joy as I give my life.*

CONFESSION *

Leader: We come before God and each other in a time of confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: God of mercy,
sometimes we see the weeds in others
and forget the wheat you are growing in us.

**Assembly: We have hurt others, made wrong choices,
and failed to live in your love.
Forgive us, help us grow,
and make us people of grace and kindness.
Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

LORD'S PRAYER *

**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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

*Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.*

*You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets
at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of
the cups and packaging after the service.*

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: The table is prepared.
Come, share in the feast.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

SONG AT COMMUNION

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,

you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Strengthen us to grow as the wheat of your kingdom,

rooted in your love and bearing the fruit of faith in our daily lives,

until the day when all your people are gathered into your harvest;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: May the God who plants the seeds of faith,
the Christ who is the Bread of Life,
and the Holy Spirit who nurtures us in love
bless you and keep you,
help you grow in faith and bear the fruit of God's kingdom,
now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

SONG *

Go in Peace, Go in Love

The musical score is written for a single voice part in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and accessible, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into six lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'Go in peace.' and 'Go in love.' The second line contains 'Go to seek.' and 'Go to serve.' The third line contains 'Go in hope to work and pray. And'. The fourth line contains 'God goes with you all the way.' and is marked with a first ending bracket. The fifth line contains 'And God goes with you all the way.' and is marked with a second ending bracket. The sixth line is a final cadence consisting of a half note G2, a whole note F2, and a whole note E2.

Go in peace. Go in love.

Go to seek. Go to serve.

Go in hope to work and pray. And

God goes with you all the way. 1.

And God goes with you all the way. 2.

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.

Grow in God's grace and bear the fruit of Christ's love.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

Praise Team

FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in memory of June Ikehorn
by Phil and Evelyn Ikehorn.*

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