

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	FIELD	GOOD	UPROOT	HARVEST
WHEAT	ENEMY	PULL	KINGDOM	SEED
PARABLE	HEAVEN	BURN	GROW	WEEDS



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July 19, 2026 + Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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 +

Prelude

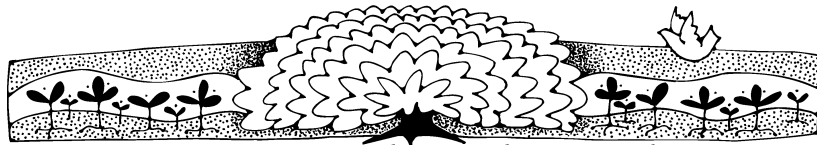
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God’s grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord’s meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

From the garden he has planted, God comes seeking fruit.

**“Let the wicked forsake their ways,
and the unrighteous their thoughts.**

**Let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

Today we consider the harvest of the Lord, and our place in it.

(Silence for meditation and self-examination.)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have been unfruitful and unfaithful.

Thinking, speaking, acting, we have sinned against you.

We deserve your wrath and punishment.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, revive us, direct us —

that we may bear the fruits of your Spirit,

to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

“As the rain waters the earth to make it sprout and grow,” says the Lord,

“so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth.”

That word declares us forgiven for the sake of Jesus Christ,

restored to the family of God,

and equipped by the Holy Spirit for service to the Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Praise and Thanksgiving

#689



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

The Parable of the Weeds

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

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



J	R	L	N	O	Y	S	V	Q	C	Z	P	I	W	F	G	H	X	T	D	U	B	E	A	M	K
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 12-24-2-24-22-3-23 _____

2. 14-23-23-20-7 _____

3. 16-5-5-20 _____

4. 7-23-23-20 _____

5. 15-13-23-3-20 _____

6. 14-17-23-24-19 _____

7. 17-24-2-8-23-7-19 _____

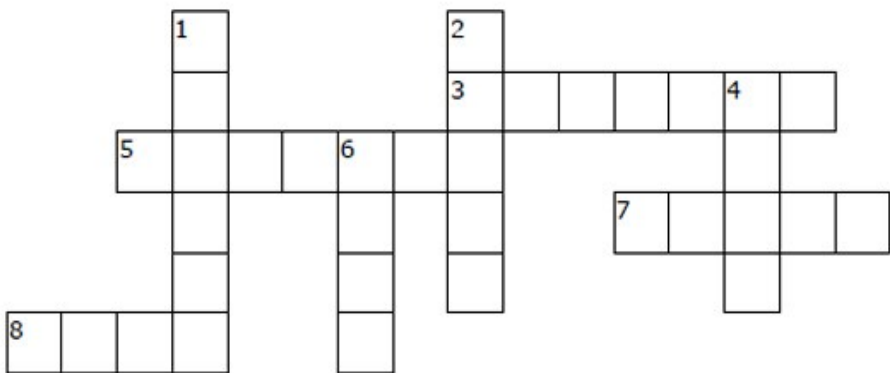
8. 22-21-2-4 _____

WHEAT PARABLE	WEEDS GOOD	FIELD HARVEST	SEED BURN
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The Parable of the Weeds

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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



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

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Opening Litany

In the world, which is your field, O Lord,
you have planted us.

But in the world, which is your field, O Lord,
the devil has planted sin and evil.

In the world, we get tangled up in the weeds of the devil’s destruction.
Forgive us, O Lord, when we allow evildoers to control our lives and destroy what you have created.

In the world, we get tangled up in the weeds of deceit.
Forgive us, O Lord, when we are influenced by lies and misleading information about your plans for us.

In the world, we get tangled up in the weeds of prejudice.
Forgive us, O Lord, when we follow the patterns of bias and racism that are still such a strong force in our society.

In the world, O Lord, keep us rooted in the strength of your commands.
Help us to grow in our desire to lead God-pleasing lives.

In the world, O Lord, keep us planted in the power of your love.
**Help us to grow in our understanding
of how you have made us your own
through your sacrifice on the cross.**

In the world, O Lord, keep us enriched with the vigor of your Word.
**Help us to grow in our knowledge of the blessed hope of salvation
that will await us at the Last Day.**

In the world, O Lord, prepare us for the final harvest.
**May we rise above the weeds of woe,
and may our hearts unfold like flowers before you
in the glorious splendor of heaven.**

Apostolic Greeting

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.

Hymn of Praise

Father, I Adore You

W&P #37

1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,
fore you; how I love you.

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Faithful God, most merciful judge,
you care for your children with firmness and compassion.
By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom,

Sending Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

#679

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.
For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,
fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

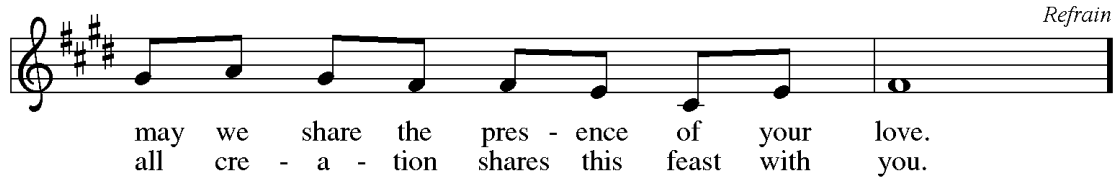
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Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



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Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

God all mighty, God most merciful,
bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.
In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.



**that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel — and we — are redeemed.

A reading from Isaiah.

⁶Thus 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.
⁷Who 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.
⁸Do 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.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 86:11-17

Let us read Psalm 86 responsively.

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
¹²**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**
¹³For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
¹⁴**The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**
¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant,
and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷Show 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.

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

A reading from Romans.

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — ¹³for 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. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For 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!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and 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.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that 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. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and 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. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text & Music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

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Distribution Hymn

As The Grains of Wheat

#465

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

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together 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.

Agnus Dei Lamb of God Family of God

Musical notation for Agnus Dei. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 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.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:
The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.
The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil #512

Musical notation for Distribution Hymn. The melody is in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Alleluia Verse Family of God

Musical notation for Alleluia Verse. The melody is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! The Lord our God be blessed! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Your Word brings righ-teous-ness. With all your works, we praise you! Ex-alt your Name for-ev-er! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing al-le-lu-ia!

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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th Chapter.
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;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And 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?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let 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.’ ”

³⁶Then 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.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children 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 collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

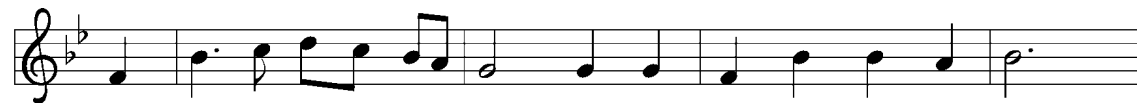
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* #694



- 1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
- 2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
- 3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,

you send your Spirit to create among your children
the joy of adoption
and bestow upon us the gift of being your heirs.
Send that Spirit upon us now,
that we might be what we eat, Christ’s body in your world;
and sanctify this bread and cup,
that they may be for us the blessed body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks.
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying
*“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”*

After supper Jesus took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying,
*“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

God of patience and hope, sower of all good seeds,
show those who suffer the incomparable glory
of what you have in store for them.
When your children’s field is interlaced with weeds among the wheat,
when the labor pains of creation groan to highest heaven,
give us your heart to live in your time
and abide in the truth of what we do not yet see.
Bless your people that they may know that you are with them
and will keep them wherever they go,
that they shall exclaim that surely you are among them,
though they did not know it.
Bring all creation into the eternal joy of abiding in an awesome place,
your very house, the gate of heaven,
where you dwell forever, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
through all ages with power and glory. **Amen.**

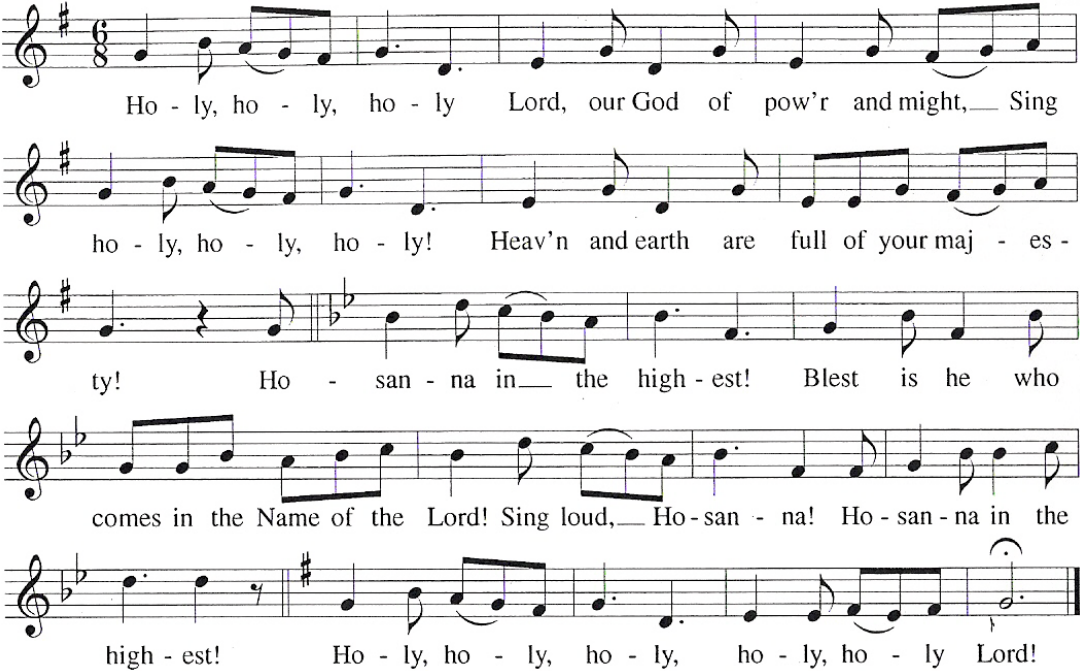
Proper Preface

Glory and praise are yours, majestic God,
for you make a ladder between heaven and earth;
in Jesus you descend that ladder to bring us into your presence,
and in his death and resurrection you bring us with him,
ascending the ladder to your throne of grace.
You set creation free from its bondage to decay
and bestow upon your children
the freedom of the glory of your redemption.
You call your people to be a blessing to all the families of the earth.
And so we join the ladder of angels and archangels,
ascending and descending with all the company of heaven,
singing the song of your unending praise.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, Sing
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
ty! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is he who
comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the
high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Liberating God, through the sonship of Jesus



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.
Music: Johann Steurlein, 1546-1613
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Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**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 into hell.
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 the People

P Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

A God our source,
protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat.
Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us,
and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen;
the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals,
galaxies beyond our own.
May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters
with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority,
that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives
have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change,
unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character,
or illness or injury. We pray especially for . . .
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A God our teacher,
guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers,
daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches,
teachers preparing for the coming academic year,
and youth becoming first-time babysitters.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A God our hope, the message of your salvation
is planted among us in all times and places.
We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints
who shine like the sun in your presence.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness,
we cast all our cares upon you,
through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Peace

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

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Family of God



1. Your vine - yards, O Lord, may and they
(2.) gath - er the hopes and the

bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these

bless - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from
of - f'rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and

what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - 'ised

bread of life. 2. Now come. A - men.

✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

