

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, July 19, 2026
8th 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.

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

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

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**

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***Come Let Us Join**

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***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.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

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 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.

⁸ 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,
and glorify your name for- | evermore.**

¹³ For 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 be- | fore their eyes.

**¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.**

¹⁶ Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;

give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your handmaid.

**¹⁷ 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 com- | forted me.

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-25

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

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)**

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***Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter

C: 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.’ ”

P: The gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Erin Brookshire

***Hymn**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

ELW 623

***Apostles Creed**

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*** Prayers of Intercession**

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

***Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

Special Collection – Lotus Women's Shelter

***Offering prayer**

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

*** Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy**

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***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

Holy Communion Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Communion Hymns

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

***Prayer After Communion**

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.

***Blessing**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

***Hymn**

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW 694

***Dismissal**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Stacy Hendrickson

Ushers: Rick Kuhlman, David Osterberg, Fran Long

Communion: Stacy Hendrickson, Vera Hartman

Communion setup: Bev Fortney and Jane Forbes

Tech: Mark Oester

7/12

Offering: \$4348.65

Attendance: 106