

DEFINE CHRISTIAN

The Christian Lives as Wheat Among Weeds



SHINING MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH
Bozeman, MT

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – July 23rd, 2023

The Christian Lives as Wheat among the Weeds

The wheat that grows in the Middle East is a variety that looks much like wild grass or weeds. It is difficult to tell wheat and weeds apart until shortly before harvest time, when the wheat stalks develop a head containing the kernels of grain. Try and pull the weeds out of a wheat field and you will likely pull up a fair amount of wheat accidentally. So you need to wait for the harvest to separate wheat from weeds.

This week Jesus uses that image to illustrate life this side of heaven. Christians are pictured as wheat planted by the Lord. Evil and unbelieving evildoers are pictured as weeds. We might want God to take care of evil now – to pull up all the weeds. But he tells us to wait for the harvest. God is going to fix the problem of evil in this world, but it might not be today or even tomorrow. What does God want us to do while we wait? He wants us to live like wheat among weeds, serving the purpose for which he planted us. That means being faithful, fruitful, and mindful of the coming harvest.

INFORMATION

- ◆ **Restrooms** are located in the hall to the right as you leave the sanctuary.
- ◆ **The order of service** is printed out for you today. Note that sections for the minister to speak are marked with “**M**” while the sections for the congregation are marked with “**C**”.
- ◆ **An offering plate** can be found in the entryway. God’s love for us moves us to give, which is one way we support the preaching and teaching of God’s Word here and around the world. Visitors may join us, but please do not feel obligated to do so. If you’d like to give online via our secure site you can scan this code:



CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them.” We love children in church. They need to grow in the message of God’s love as much as we do. If, however, your child needs a chance to be comforted or calmed down, we have a “**parents’ room**” equipped with a window and a live stream of the worship service located immediately across from the kitchen.



Shining Mountains
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

Lutherans believe that the gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saves sinners, but also a power God uses to create and strengthen faith in Jesus.

HYMN #256

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion



Con-sid-er all the works thy hand hath made,
And hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!



I see the stars, I hear the might-y thun-der,
When I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur
That on the cross my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing
Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion



Thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played.
And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze,
He bled and died to take a-way my sin.
And there pro-claim: "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior-God, to thee, "How great thou



art! How great thou art!" Then sings my soul, my



Sav-ior-God to thee, "How great thou art! How great thou art!"

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: 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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's
2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal is your



praise a - rise. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
glo - rious Word. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung Through
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore Till



ev - 'ry land, by ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia!
suns shall rise and set no more. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-11

“This is what the LORD says — Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. ⁷Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come — yes, let them foretell what will come. ⁸Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.” ⁹All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless.

Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. ¹⁰Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit nothing? ¹¹People who do that will be put to shame; such craftsmen are only human beings. Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to terror and shame.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 19

Refrain

Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

Psalm tone

*

The heavens declare the glory of God;*
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Their voice goes out into all the earth,*
their words to the ends of the world.

Refrain

The law of the LORD is perfect,*
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,*
giving light to the eyes.

They are more precious than gold,*
they are sweeter than honey.

By them is your servant taught,*
in keeping them there is great reward.

Refrain

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart*
be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND READING

Romans 1:18-25

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Romans 11:33

M: Alleluia. Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Alleluia.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was

sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ²⁹ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ” ³⁶Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

HYMN #472 (vv.1-3, 4)

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a -
 2 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de -
 3 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you
 4 But while watch - ing al - so pray To the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a -
 feat you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be -
 tri - fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's
 ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, Strength and

(Continued on the next page)



wares o'er - tak - en. For the foe, Well we know, Is a
 tray and cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less
 mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your
 faith in - creas - ing, So that still Mind and will Shall u -



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.
 friends to charm you Who but seek to harm you.
 hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.
 nite to serve him And for - ev - er love him.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious.

Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: **We praise you for every grace and blessing.**

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: **Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society.
Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.



1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
 2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
 4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—



call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
 Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.
 wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.
 neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
 win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
 When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
 For when the stone was rolled a - way, Christ proved his
 As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
 out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for
 tri - umph o'er the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
 tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
 till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
 for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cleaners This Week (July 23rd – 29th) - *Becker, Gullixson, Moline, Brewer*

Cleaners Next Week (July 30th – Aug. 5th) - *Preasmyer, Preasmyer, Zapf*

This Week at Shining Mountains:

Today	8:30 am	Divine Worship
	10:30 am	Divine Worship
	11:45 am	Quarterly Voter's Meeting
Tuesday, July 25 th	4:00 pm	Basic Bible Christianity
Friday, July 28 th	1:30 pm	Basic Bible Christianity
Sunday, July 30 th	8:30 am	Divine Worship
	10:30 am	Divine Worship

VOTER'S MEETING TODAY

Our July Voter's Meeting is scheduled for today – July 23rd @ 11:45 AM. We'd ask the voters of the congregation to plan on being here. Thanks!

PROGRAM COORDINATOR & TEACHERS NEEDED

We are looking at reaching out to the Hispanic community with English improvement classes this fall. However, we're in need of a person willing to serve as Program Coordinator as well as Teachers. It would require a couple of hours a week for 6 weeks at a time, maybe twice a year. For more info or to commit, speak with Pastor or sign-up in the entryway.

CHALLENGE CARD #2

A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS: BE PRESENT

OUR CHALLENGE IS THIS: Escape your comfort zone. Pray for strength to be present and live the life God created just for you. A God-lived life.

A life lived for others.

Pray for God's strength and commit to at least one goal or as many as you desire.

I CHALLENGE MYSELF TO...

- Participate in a congregation outreach effort
- Send a monetary gift or gift cards to a struggling individual or family
- Make food for and/or give a ride to church to someone in need.
- Talk to a friend about Jesus
- _____

By God's grace, I commit to these goals,

Signed _____

