

Pentecost 8

July 19, 2026

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 11 (Year A)

Paul uses the image of labor pains to describe how the entirety of God’s creation is stretching and growing. God is birthing something new through Christ Jesus, and the culmination of that will be visible when he returns in glory. Growth can be a hard process, as Jesus teaches his disciples. Good seeds are planted only to be surrounded by weeds sown by an enemy. Even so, God is in control of the creation.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8 **God is the One God**
Isaiah used the backdrop of an imaginary courtroom scene to make the dramatic declaration that the God of Israel was the only God. This affirmation of the supremacy of Israel’s God meant that Israel need not fear.

Psalm 119:57-64 **The Lord is My Portion**
The psalmist entreated God to be gracious to him, asserting the ways in which he has loved God’s word and kept God’s commandments.

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-27 **Eagerly Awaiting Future Glory**
Paul acknowledged that the whole creation is under stress and experiencing the pain of childbirth. He proclaimed that current sufferings are nothing compared to the future glory that will be revealed at Christ’s return. He reminded the Roman Christians that they had hope, and that their hope was in the promised redemption for the children of God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 **Parable of the Weeds**
Jesus used the parable of the weeds to help his followers understand the reality of the existence of evil in the world. When the landowner was asleep, Jesus taught, an enemy came and sowed weeds with the good seed. Rather than uprooting the weeds as they sprouted, the landowner insisted that they be separated at harvest time. Later, when they were alone, the disciples asked Jesus for the explanation of the parable.

Liturgical Color: Green

- In Ordinary Time use either the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles’ Creed.

Consider adding some garden-variety weeds into the flowers on the altar for today and see if anyone notices. (Or put a note in the bulletin explaining they are there, just like in Jesus’ parable.) The weeds pop up among the wheat, but it is not our job to pull them out. God will do this in his time, at the end of the age.

Talk to children about imposters. The weed Jesus speaks about in today’s gospel is called a darnel. It looks like wheat but it isn’t. Why is it hard, sometimes, to figure out who (or what) is from God and who is not?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Praise and Thanksgiving	409	---	789	689	---	---
Come, You Thankful People, Come	407	---	892	693	261	261
O Holy Spirit, Enter In	459	---	913	786	---	---
Almighty God, Your Word is Cast	234	---	577	516	---	---
Sing to the Lord of the Harvest	412	---	893	694	262	262
For the Fruit of All Creation	563	---	894	679	---	---
I Love Your Kingdom, Lord	368	---	651	---	90	90
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
Blessed Assurance	---	699	---	638	190	190
Amazing Grace	448	---	744	779	199	199

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles
One True God
(CCLI# 7052884)
Wonderful Merciful Savior
(CCLI# 106879)
Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)
(CCLI# 7001228)
The Love of the Father
(CCLI# 6635756)
Thrive
(CCLI# 7006228)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.