

What Makes Christians *Different*

CHRISTIANS LIVE AS WHEAT AMONG WEEDS



GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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WELCOME TO GRACE!

We're glad you're here! May the Word of God bring you comfort in Christ alone. You can follow along with the service using this worship folder or using the screens above the chancel. If you're new here, below is some helpful information about our sanctuary and our worship...

- Please reserve the **BACK PEWS** for parents with **SMALL CHILDREN**.
- A **PARENT'S ROOM** with private changing area and restroom is available through the door at the back of the middle aisle. Windows from the room allow you to still watch the service and speakers allow you to hear as well. A volume control is available on the wall by the door.
- Ask an usher to receive an **AUDIO RECEIVER** and **HEADSET** if you need hearing assistance in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall.
- **RESTROOMS** are available in the Narthex. Exit out of the north doors from the Sanctuary and go to the left. They are located in the alcove behind Luther's Seal.
- **LARGE PRINT** bulletins are available. See an usher to receive one.
- Visit our **WEBSITE** at <http://www.graceglendale.org> for additional information about our ministries and upcoming events.

CONTACT US...

Feel free to reach out directly to our office staff via email or telephone. Call 623-937-2010 and use the extension to the right.

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AT TODAY'S SERVICE...

Preaching Minister: Pastor Sellnow

Liturgist: Pastor Jacobson

Senior ushers: 8:00 AM – Jon Floerke / Bruce Rademacher
10:30 AM – Todd Rovey / AJ McDunn

Organist: Michael Wilde

A/V Team: 8:00 AM – Tracey Moreland / Jon Scheel
10:30 AM – Paul Sullivan

ABOUT THE THEME

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. Pulling the weeds out of a wheat field could lead to accidentally pulling up a fair amount of wheat. People need to wait for the harvest to separate wheat from weeds.

Jesus uses that image to illustrate life this side of heaven. What makes Christians different? They are wheat planted by the Lord. Unbelieving evildoers are pictured as weeds. We might want God to take care of evil now, pulling up all the weeds. But he tells us to wait for the harvest of judgment day. So we live as wheat among weeds, being faithful, fruitful, and mindful of the coming harvest..

ORDER OF SERVICE

Setting 2 (CW 172)

HYMN: COME, YOU THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

CW 491

Please stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CW 176

Music & lyrics can be found in the blue hymnal in the pews or on the screens.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6–11

The Lord reminds his people to flee idolatry and cling to him as the only God.

⁶“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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD

Psalm 19A

*The Church sings Psalm 19 in services that investigate the interplay between
 the natural knowledge of God and the revealed knowledge of his perfect Word.
 Music & lyrics can be found in the gray psalter in the pews or on the screens.*

SECOND READING

Romans 1:18–25

God is not ambivalent about evil in the world. But his wrath will be fully revealed only at judgment day.

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.

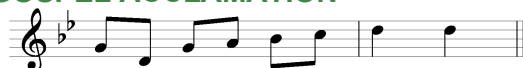
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Romans 11:33

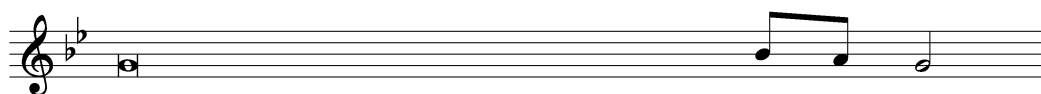


Refrain

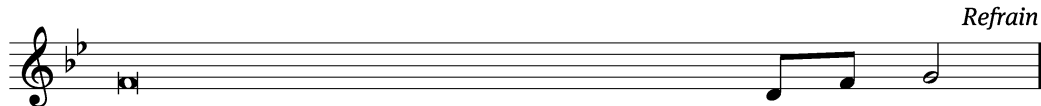


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!



How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Tune: © 2010 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 705990

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

The Lord has a plan to separate wheat and weeds at the final harvest.

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.

⁴⁰“As 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.

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

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR

CW 412

SERMON

Isaiah 44:6-11

GOD’S NAMES REVEAL GOD’S GREATNESS

Please stand

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at

the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Special Intercessions

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

OFFERINGS OF LOVE TO OUR LORD

Please fill out the "Welcome to Grace" register in your pew at this time!
Remember to mark if you are communing.

Please stand

PREFACE

CW 183

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

CW 184

Music & lyrics can be found in the blue hymnal in the pews or on the screens.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

CW 186

Music & lyrics can be found in the blue hymnal in the pews or on the screens.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

*In **Holy Communion** we receive the assurance of forgiveness through the body and blood of our Savior. By sharing in this Sacrament, we also express our complete agreement with one another according to the teachings of the Bible. If you have not joined our fellowship (**Wisconsin Synod**), please permit us to tell you about our Lutheran Christian faith before you partake of this Holy Supper so that you can judge for yourself whether there is complete agreement between us.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: ON EAGLE'S WINGS

CW 821

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: WHAT IS THIS BREAD

CW 665

Please stand

THANKSGIVING

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

PROCLAMATION

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN: FROM ALL THAT DWELL BELOW THE SKIES

CW 605

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Grace Groups

Gathering Together Around God's Word

GOD'S NAMES REVEAL GOD'S GREATNESS

Isaiah 44:6-11

Explain: If you could keep the 1st Commandment you could keep them all.

"All paths lead to God." Explain the appeal of such a teaching and the danger of it.

What Biblical name for God brings you the most comfort. Why?

What are the idols that you struggle with the most? What lie do they tempt you to believe?

Homework:

Read Luther's Large Catechism on the First Commandment. You can find it free online if you don't own it... <https://thebookofconcord.org>