

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 23rd, 2023
9:30 am



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Rocky River, OH 44116
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YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayerground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

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.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.

**We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**† Gathering Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW 533
v. 1, 2, & 4**

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,

till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† 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.



† Kyrie (v. 1, 2, 4)

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour - ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† 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.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Romans 8:12-25

To put this reading into context:

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.

Hear now the reading.

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† Gospel Acclamation

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

To put this gospel reading into context:

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 Matthew.

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 Sermon

Sermon: The Rev. Shelley Nelson-Bridger

Silence for Reflection.

† Hymn of the Day: O Christ, Our Hope - ELW 604 v. 1, 2, 4, 5

- 1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,
creation's mighty Lord,
redeemer of the fallen world,
by holy love outpoured,
by holy love outpoured:
- 2 How vast your mercy to accept
the burden of our sin,
and bow your head in cruel death
to make us clean within,
to make us clean within.
- 4 Oh, let your mighty love prevail
to purge us of our pride,
that we may stand before your throne
by mercy purified,
by mercy purified.

5 All praise to you, ascended Lord;
all glory ever be
to Father, Son, and Spirit blest
through all eternity,
through all eternity!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt..

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The
prayers are
also
responsive,
emphasizing
our own
participation.*

*Each petition
addresses a
different topic,
often in the
same pattern:*

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and
leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith
community
+ The great
cloud of
witnesses/those
now resting
with God*

† Prayers of Intercession

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O God, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting in your Spirit. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction especially Peter, Helen, Andrew, Mary, Martha and Jamie, Willie, Char, Marlon, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Anna, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, family and friends of Patricia...and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed so that we live into that same hope. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

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

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.



*The offering is
brought
forward to the
altar to signify
our gratitude
for God's
blessings.*

† Offering Hymn: We Are an Offering – ELW 692

We lift our voices,
we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to You;
we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices,
Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are Yours;
we are an offering.

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
We are an offering

† Offering Prayer

God of field and forest, sea and sky,
you are the giver of all good things.
Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,
and multiply your graciousness in us,
that the world may be fed with your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

† 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.

† Preface

† Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first 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.**

† Invitation to the Table

All people are called to Christ's table.
Come, eat what is good. **Amen.**

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: Oh, Worship the King - ELW 842

- 1 Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
- 2 The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;
established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
- 3 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
- 4 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.
- 5 O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world
to follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation - ELW 679

- 1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,

thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The dismissal is based on Good Soil's Purpose Statement.

† Dismissal

**Go in peace as the people of Good Soil:
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve!**

Postlude

Coffee Hour is currently paused for the summer.

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Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Michael Wancata	Reader: JoAnne Wancata
Ushers: Darlene Wahl Bill Wahl	Counters: Michael Wancata Dave Blocksom
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: Alexandra Inman



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, July 23rd, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Andrew Evatt, Mary Hanson, Martha and Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Marlon Naylor, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, the family and friends of Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, and Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India.

For those celebrating their birthday:

Amelia Forshey (July 23rd), Dave Blocksom (July 26th), and Jenna Carlson (July 28th)

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism:

Amanda Inman (July 26th) and Ariel Benewiat (July 27th)

The flowers adorning the altar today are given with thanksgiving and gratitude for God's Love and Forgiveness, and in memory of the remarkable life of Jerry W. Hoegner, and in honor of Amelia Forshey's birthday.

Food ministry volunteer opportunities to help feed our neighbors:

- 1) New Covenant (1424 Hayden Ave, Cleveland) - on the fourth Saturday from 8am-12pm, through August. *Please bring in extra plastic bags to help support this ministry or place in the bin in the upstairs hallway.* **Final** date: August 26.
- 2) Trinity Lutheran at Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 W Clifton Blvd, Lakewood) - on the third Saturday from 9am-12pm, through November. Upcoming dates: August 19, September 16, October 21, and November 18.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Jul 23	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Jul 30	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Jul 30	Memorial Service for Max Bechtel	3:00 pm
Sat, Aug 5	Ladies Breakfast at Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Aug 6	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am

20's and 30's Gather Together Spiritual Hike at 7:00pm on July 27 – Join the West Side ELCA “Gather Together” 20s & 30s group for an evening hike to spend time in ministry together. After the hike, we will segue to a nearby establishment for refreshments. This month, we will meet up at 7:00pm in front of the entrance to the Rocky River Nature Center. Contact Mary Washburn at mary.washburn@outlook.com or 210-241-8455 for questions or weather-related back up plans.

Summer Family Movie and Camp Fire Night August 12th – Join your siblings in Christ for a family-friendly night of movies and pizza on Saturday, 8/12 at 5:00 pm. There will be a campfire and ingredients to make s'mores in addition to pizza and lemonade. Bring yourself, a comfy chair or blankets. Event is rain or shine, camp fire is weather permitting. Let us know how many are attending and what food/supplies you can bring by signing up on the sheet on the bulletin board or contacting the church office. Any questions? Contact Adam Pate (419-606-3373) or Jennifer Krankowski (216-372-0012).

Suburban Cooperative Nursery School is currently enrolling for the Fall. There are openings for both three- and four-year-olds for the upcoming school year. For more information, please call 440-331-9929, email suburbancoop@gmail.com, or visit the website at <http://www.suburbancooperative.com>.