

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



**9th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 30th, 2023**  
**9:30 am**



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Rocky River, OH 44116  
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### 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 worshipping 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.

**9th Sunday after Pentecost**

*Every day, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

**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: Gather Us In - ELW 532 v. 1, 2, & 4**

- 1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face;  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.
- 4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away—  
here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,

fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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*The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.





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

## † Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## The Word

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

### **First Reading: Romans 8:26-28, 31-35, 37-39**

To put this reading into context:

*These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

Hear now the reading.

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed

intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:31-33, 44-45, 51-52**

To put this gospel reading into context:

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;

<sup>51</sup>"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon**

**Sermon: Deacon Anne Paine**

*Silence for Reflection. Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:*

*Theologian Marcus Borg writes, "The kingdom of God is the love and justice that is the passion of God for our life together. It's what life would be like on earth if God were king and the rulers of this world were not."*

*What is God's "kin-dom" vision? How is "the world as it is" different from "the world as it should be?" Even so, what are the glimpses of God's kin-dom that still break through?*

**† Hymn of the Day: Be thou my vision - ELW 793**

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931.

*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.*

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip us to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick. We especially pray for 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 Max Bechtel as they give thanks for his life during his memorial service today... and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and to children attending summer camps or community

programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions.  
Receive our Prayer, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. 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](http://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: What a Beautiful Name – Hillsong

You were the Word at the beginning  
One with God the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now, revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this  
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us  
So Jesus, You brought heaven down  
My sin was great, Your love was greater  
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a wonderful Name it is, nothing compares to this  
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus  
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus

How sweet is Your Name, Lord, how good You are  
We love to sing in Your Name, Lord,  
Love to sing of who You are

Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You  
You silenced the boast of sin and grave  
The Heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory  
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival, You have no equal  
Now and forever, God, You reign  
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the Glory  
Yours is the Name above all names



What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against  
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus

You have no rival, You have no equal  
Now and forever, God, You reign  
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the Glory  
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against  
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus

What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus  
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus

**† 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: In thee is gladness - ELW 867**

1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness,  
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.  
By thee are given the gifts of heaven,  
thou the true redeemer art.

Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest.  
Who trusts thee surely has built securely  
and stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining to see thy shining,  
dying or living, to thee are cleaving;  
naught can us sever: Alleluia!

2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers,  
not of earth or sin or death.  
He sees and blesses in worst distresses;  
he can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story tell of his glory  
with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices  
in him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness,  
love him and praise him and still shall raise him  
glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

*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: Trey Harrison	Reader: Ellen Young
Ushers: Chris Jacobson Larry Jacobson	Counters: Larry Jacobson Ellen Young
Online Usher: Alex Alusheff	Acolyte: Jack Johnson



## Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, July 30th, 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 Max Bechtel, Jeanette Weidlich, and Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India.

### **For those celebrating their birthday:**

David David (7/30), Gretchen Bowman (8/1), and Jeanne Livingood (8/3)

### **For those celebrating their anniversary:**

Kathy Berkshire (7/30), Jerad & Becky Williamson (7/30), Dave & Abbie Blocksom (8/5)

### **For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism:**

Mandy Forshey (8/3)

**The flowers adorning the altar today** are given to the Glory of God by Jerad and Rebecca Williamson in honor of their anniversary.

### **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 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
Sat, Aug 12	ELCA Anti-Racist Zoom Meeting	10:00 am
Sat, Aug 12	Summer Family-Friendly Movie and Camp Fire Night	4:00 pm

**MORE FUN at Summer Family-Friendly Movie and Camp Fire Night**

Saturday, August 12

Join your Good Soil family for an evening of movies and pizza - now kicking off with GAMES for the kids and kids at heart!

**4:00** Games and activities for toddlers on up

**5:00** Campfire/Movie Activities begin! (S'mores, Pizza, snacks, drinks)

Toddler/small child activities during the movie

Bring yourself, a comfy chair, or blankets. Pizza & movie rain or shine, campfire & outdoor games weather permitting.



Please use the QR code to let us know how many are attending and what food/supplies you can bring OR use the sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board OR contact the church office. Questions? Contact Adam Pate (419-606-3373) or Jennifer Krankowski (216-372-0012).

**RIC Brunch and Conversation** – Join us for brunch after worship on 8/13 to learn about the RIC (“Reconciling in Christ”) process and have conversation together about what it means to be a welcoming faith community. We’ll share stories of welcome from our own lives and hear firsthand from folks from Trinity who have gone through that RIC process before. RIC = a process/training churches can go through to earn a designation as a safe and welcoming faith community for LGBTQIA+ and people of color. Good Soil is exploring beginning that process in 2024.

**Suburban Cooperative Nursery School** is currently enrolling 3 and 4 yr olds for the fall school year. For more information, please email [suburbancoop@gmail.com](mailto:suburbancoop@gmail.com), call 440-331-9929, or visit the website at <http://www.suburbancooperative.com>