

PENTECOST

A TIME TO GROW



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

July 23, 2023

Pentecost 8
Sunday, July 23, 2023
(* indicates the assembly stands)

Gathering

Prelude

Words of Welcome & Service Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness (see page 4)

*Hymn 553

“Christ, whose Glory Fills the Skies”

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Solos

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86: 11-17 (see page 6)

(read responsively)

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

*Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia!”

p. 205

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day 952 (see page 7)

“The Reign of God, like Farmer’s Field”

*Prayers of Intercession

A: Your mercy is great.

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 686 v. 1, 2

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving

p. 206

*Holy, Holy, Holy

p. 207

Thanksgiving at the Table V

*Lord’s Prayer (*Our Father, who art in heaven...*)

p. 208

Lamb of God

p. 208

Communion Hymns

733, 465

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Sending

General Announcements

*Blessing

*Hymn 679

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

*Dismissal

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Cover image and liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB142079

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

God, I meant to be a good person;
I wanted to produce wisdom and justice.
How is it I am so compromised?

There is goodness and mercy in me,
and there is selfishness and fear,
privilege that serves only my fake desires.

I've been asleep! I missed it,
when my ego crept in
and sowed all this junk in me.

I want to march through the field of my life
and tear out all the weeds.
I want to be better. Now.

But, look how harsh I am, judging myself.
My hands are full not of the fruit of love
but shame and a scythe.

Some of me that I am disappointed in
hides your blessing, wheat among the weeds.
Only you know the true fruits I bear.

I set aside my weapons.
I let go of accusing myself.
I accept myself as I am, weeds and wheat.

I trust you to glean the grain from my field
and remove the rest—
gone, cleansed, burned forever!

May my peace and acceptance
be the seeds I sow
for the next harvest.

("Weeds and wheat" by Steve Garnaas-Holmes on www.unfoldinglight.net)

Space for your notes on today's service, for your personal reflection.

Psalm 86: 11-17

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to re- | vere your name.

¹²I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,
and glorify your name for- | evermore.

¹³For great is your | love toward me;
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

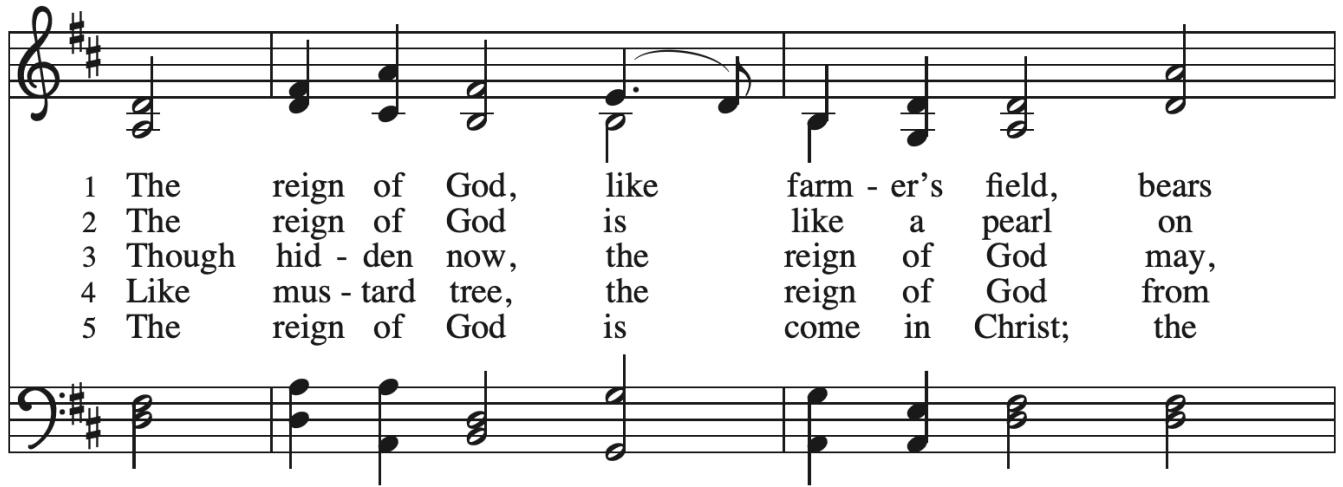
¹⁴The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks my life;
they have not set you be- | fore their eyes.

¹⁵But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kind- | ness and truth.

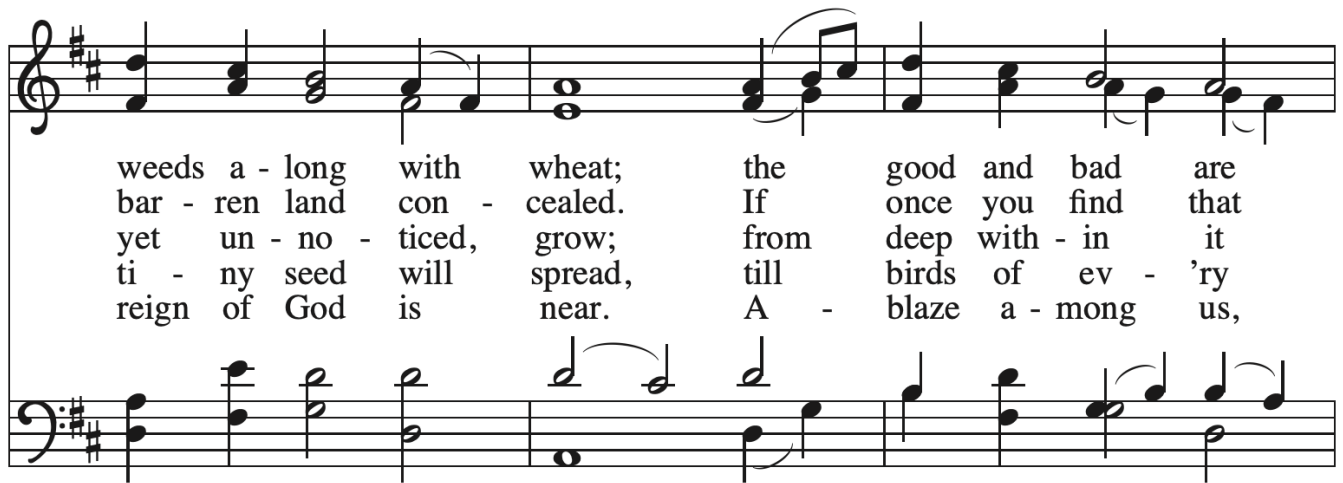
¹⁶Turn to me and have mer- | cy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child | of your handmaid.

¹⁷Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be | put to
shame;
because you, Lord, have helped me and com- | forted me.

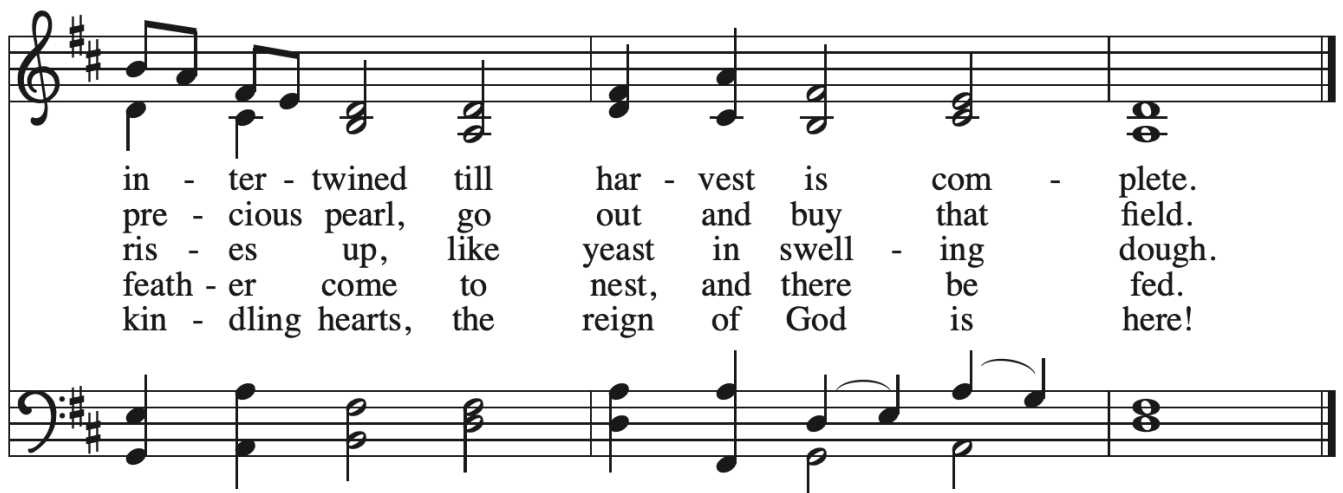
The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. *With One Voice*, 1995

Text © 1995, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Leading Worship Today

Minister and violinist: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Guest Organist: Corinne Dutton

Soloists: Noah Bell (piano) and James Meadows-Helmer (cello)

Broadcast: Gary Pootz

Building Monitor: Dennis Diebolt (519-571-4525)

Worship Notes

In our prayers Meaghan, Henry, Marie, Grace, Maureen, Bernice and John.

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving you and forgiving you. The pastor will distribute communion wafers using tongs. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. You may then take a pre-poured wine cup from the larger tray or a juice cup from the smaller tray. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you. Please let an usher or the pastor know before worship if possible.

General Announcements

West Tower Door for Emergency Only. Due to the ongoing construction planning, when going in to the church house or washrooms, use the west stair tower door and stay on that floor. Use the hallway by the office to the stairway to the floor below. The stairs in the west tower are closed to the lower level sanctuary and should only be used in case of an emergency to exit the building.

Important Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **The Peace:** We support people's choices for passing of the peace.
- **Exiting:** At the end of the service, please remain in place until the end of the postlude.



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

Get the newsletter and email updates on upcoming church events, announcements, reminders and service changes.

Contact info@stmattskw.com today!

Fire Exits: All Sanctuary fire exits remain operational during lower-level demolition and renovations. This includes the three Narthex (Entrance) doors, the mid-tower door (half-way up the right side), and the staircase at the front left, piano side.

Church Fire Plan For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety.

ICE CREAM SUNDAY



**JOIN US FOR A COLD TREAT AFTER WORSHIP
HOSTED BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

July 23rd

Contact Information

Office: 519-742-0462 stmattskw.com

Rev. Carey Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 3	pastorcarey@stmattskw.com
Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer	Ext. 2	pastorsebastian@stmattskw.com
Deacon Scott Knarr	Ext. 4	deaconscott@stmattskw.com
Leanne Vanderhout	Ext. 6	lvanderhout@stmattskw.com



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Donate](#)



St. Matthews Lutheran Church

**54 BENTON STREET
KITCHENER
N2G 3H2
519.742.0462**

**stmattskw.com
info@stmattskw.com**