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**Sunday, July 26, 2026**

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost\*

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Service Theme

**CHRISTIANS LIVE AS WHEAT AMONG WEEDS**

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. 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.

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# 507 Let All Things Now Living

CW 507



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 His law he en - forc - es; the stars in their cours - es and



God the Cre - a - tor tri - um-phant-ly raise, who fash - ioned and  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient-ly shine. The hills and the



made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who still guides us  
moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the deeps of the



on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us; his  
o - cean pro - claim him di - vine. We, too, should be voic - ing our



light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the  
love and re - joic - ing. With glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us



night, till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is  
raise till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -



ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
giv - ing: "To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

## **The Service**

*Service of Word and Prayer (page 266)*

I rejoiced with those who said to me,

**“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!

**Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.**

The Lord is near to all who call on him,

**to all who call on him in truth.**

### **Time of the Church**

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,

**that I may follow it to the end.**

Your word is a lamp for my feet,

**a light on my path.**

Faith comes from hearing the message,

**and the message is heard through the word about Christ.**

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Old Testament

Isaiah 44:6–11

*Like wheat among weeds, Christians live surrounded by evil in this world.*

<sup>6</sup>This is what the LORD, the King of Israel,  
Israel's Redeemer, the LORD of Armies, says.

I am the first, and I am the last.

Except for me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>For who is like me? Let him declare it.

Let him recite in order for me the things that took  
place

since the time I established an ancient people.

Or let them declare what is yet to come,  
and what is going to take place.

<sup>8</sup>Do not tremble, and do not be frightened.

Did I not announce this to you,  
and declare it already long ago?

You are my witnesses.

Is there any god except me?

There is no other Rock. I am not aware of any other.

<sup>9</sup>All those who form an idol are good for nothing.

All the things which delight them provide no  
benefit.

As for their witnesses—they do not see.

They know nothing, so they will be ashamed.

<sup>10</sup>Who is this who forms a god or casts a metal image  
that can provide no profit? <sup>11</sup>Look at him! All his associates  
will be ashamed. The craftsmen are merely men. Let them  
all gather themselves and take a stand. They will be  
terrified and ashamed together.

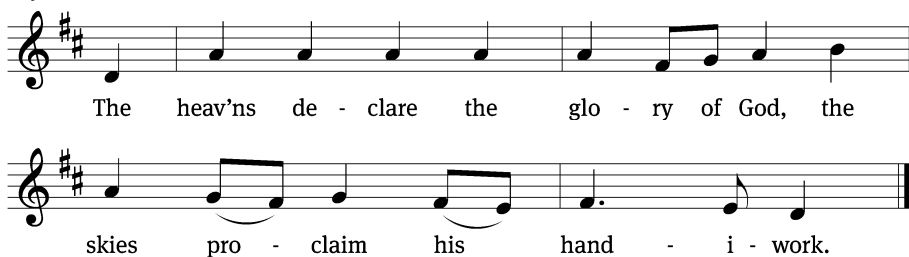
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 19A The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

Psalm 19A

## Refrain



## Tone



They have no speech, they / use no words;  
no sound is / heard from them.

Yet their voice goes out into / all the earth,  
their words to the ends / of the world. *Refrain*

The law of the LORD is perfect, refresh- / ing the soul.

The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light / to  
the eyes.

They are more precious than gold, than much / pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the /  
honeycomb.

By them your servant / is warned;  
in keeping them there is / great reward. *Refrain*

May these words of my mouth and this meditation / of my  
heart

be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my rock and my Re- /  
deemer.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**

**and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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

<sup>18</sup>Indeed, God's wrath is being revealed from heaven against all the ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who try to suppress the truth by unrighteousness. <sup>19</sup>This happens because what can be known about God is evident among them, because God made it evident among them. <sup>20</sup>In fact, his invisible characteristics—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, because they are understood from the things he made. As a result, people are without excuse, <sup>21</sup>because, even though they knew God, they did not honor him or give him thanks as God. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless heart was darkened.

<sup>22</sup>Although they claim to be wise, they have become fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human, or like birds, four-footed animals, and crawling things. <sup>24</sup>So, as they followed the sinful desires of their hearts, God handed them over to the impurity of degrading their own bodies among themselves. <sup>25</sup>Such people have traded the truth about God for the lie, worshipping and serving the creation rather than the Creator, who is worthy of praise forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Verse of the Day****Romans 11:33**

Alleluia, alleluia. Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

**Alleluia.**

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

<sup>24</sup>He presented another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup>But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>When the plants sprouted and produced heads of grain, the weeds also appeared. <sup>27</sup>The servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy did this.’ The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and gather up the weeds?’ <sup>29</sup>‘No,’ he answered, ‘because when you gather up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “First, gather up the weeds, bind them in bundles, and burn them. Then, gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

<sup>36</sup>Then Jesus sent the people away and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

<sup>37</sup>He answered them, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One. <sup>39</sup>The enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Therefore, just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the world. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will pull out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and those who continue to break the law. <sup>42</sup>The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 612 How Great Thou Art

CW 612



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der  
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,  
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion



con - sid - er all the works thy hand hath made,  
and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!



I see the stars, I hear the might - y thun - der,  
when I look down from loft - y moun-tain gran - deur  
that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing  
Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion



thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
and there pro - claim: "My God, how great thou art!"



*Refrain*  
Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior-God, to thee, How great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my



Sav-ior-God to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989 Tune: Swedish

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**Sermon**

*Matthew 13:24-30*

**GOD'S DECISION:**  
*"Let both grow together!"*

**Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# 821 On Eagle's Wings CW 821 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3, Final Refrain

*Verse*

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a -

bide in his shad-ow for life, say to the Lord: "My

*Refrain*

ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

*Refrain*

And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,

bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the

*Verses*

sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Verse*

2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and

fam - ine will bring you no fear; un - der his wings your

*Refrain*

ref - uge, his faith - ful - ness your shield.



3 For to his an-gels he's giv-en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up-on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a-against a stone.



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the



breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and



hold you in the palm of his hand. And hold you,



hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1951, abr. Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951 Text and tune: © 1979 OCP Publications. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719723

Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;

**in your faithfulness and righteousness, come to my relief.**

Spare us, Lord, from the lies of the devil and the attacks of our conscience. Comfort and save us in your patient compassion.

**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Guide us, Lord, to the wisdom of your Word and the power of your promises. Take away our confusion and doubt.

**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Hear us, Lord, when we come to you in prayer. Make us confident to take you at your word and to follow you in faith.

**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Empower us, Lord, to walk in your ways and live in your truth. Fill us with your love, that we may love you and one another.

**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

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.**

## **Time of the Church**

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified. Receive our prayers for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocations and ministries they may truly serve and honor you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

## **Blessing**

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

**Amen.**

# 704 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

CW 704



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex -  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, to his im - age  
3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus; his death from the  
4 Let us glad - ly live with Je - sus; since he's ris - en



am - ple pure, flee the world which would de - ceive us and to  
e'er con - form; heav - en's glo - ry soon will please us, sun - shine  
sec - ond death, from our soul's de - struc - tion, frees us, quick - ens  
from the dead, death and grave must soon re - lease us. Je - sus,



sin our souls al - lure. Ev - er in his foot - steps tread - ing,  
fol - low on the storm. Though we sow in tears of sor - row,  
us with life's glad breath. Let us mor - ti - fy, while liv - ing,  
thou art now our head. We are tru - ly thine own mem - bers,



bod - y here, yet soul a - bove, full of faith and  
we shall reap in heav'n - ly joy, and the fears that  
flesh and blood and die to sin, and the grave that  
where thou liv - est, there live we; take and own us



hope and love, let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
now an - noy shall be laugh - ter on the mor - row. Christ, I  
shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
con - stant - ly, faith - ful Friend, as thy dear breth - ren. Je - sus,



Lord, a - bide with me; Sav - ior, lead; I fol - low thee.  
suf - fer here with thee; there, O share thy joy with me.  
here I die to thee, there to live e - ter - nal - ly.  
here I live to thee, al - so there e - ter - nal - ly.

# **Announcements**

## ***Church Cleaners***

August 2 - Simon / August 9 - Matthew

## ***Church Picnic and Corn Boil***

Mark your calendars! The annual church picnic and corn boil is August 9th after the service. This year we have the added treat of ice cream catered by AY Ice Cream (12-2). There will also be fun games and great fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity to practice 'friendship evangelism'. Invite your friends for worship at 9:30 and then the picnic. Hope to see everyone there!

## ***Flower Donations to Beautify the Altar***

Congregational members are encouraged to donate cut fresh flowers and/or potted flowering plants to beautify the altar for special occasions such as: anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, birth of a child, in memory of a loved one, etc. Please notify your intention to donate and the date to Judy Bellefeuille ([judy.bellefeuille@gmail.com](mailto:judy.bellefeuille@gmail.com)).

### **DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR**

**Su (26) 9:30 am Lay led Worship**

10:45 am Brief Bible Study

*Pastor will be away from July 20 - 29*

**Sa (1) 10:00 am Bible Information Class**

**Su (2) 9:30 am Worship (with Communion)**

10:45 am Brief Bible Study

**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**

4:00 pm Youth Confirmation in Poltimore

**Th (6) 10:30 am Longfields Manor Devotion**

**Sa (8) 9:00 am One-Day VBS**

**Su (9) 9:30 am Worship**

**11:00 am Church Picnic**

## **Acknowledgments**

Service of Word and Prayer from Christian Worship

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