Elim Lutheran Church

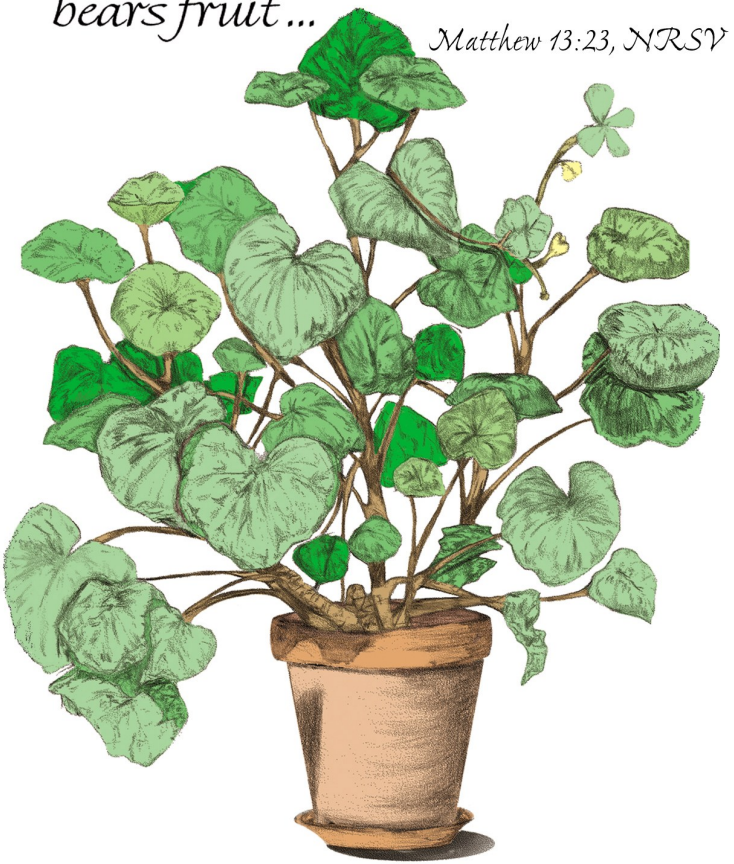
Sunday, July 12, 2026

10:00 AM

7th Sunday After Pentecost

But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit ...

Matthew 13:23, NRSV



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

The Elim Express contains announcements and happenings at Elim. Use this QR Code to the right to read the Elim Express online. Just scan it with the photo app on your phone.

Welcome to Elim Lutheran Church

1) Accessible restrooms and an AED are located by the exit near the parking lot. An all-gender restroom is in the Sanctuary Balcony.

2) Elim belongs to the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). To learn more, visit https://www.spselca.net/

WELCOME

Pastor: Let us welcome all who are here to worship with us today. Here at Elim:

All: You are welcome, you are loved, you belong.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

Please stand as you are able

OPENING HYMN: WE ABIDE, WE ABIDE IN YOU CCLI

Verse 1
We are the vineyard You have planted
Tend our leaves and wild branches
We abide we abide in You
We abide we abide in You

Verse 2
Fruit growing from our strength and labor
Rain on us with grace and favor
We abide we abide in You
We abide we abide in You

Chorus
Where can my soul find living water
Apart from You we bear no fruit
O plant my feet down by the river
We abide we abide in You

Verse 1
We are the vineyard You have planted
Tend our leaves and wild branches
We abide we abide in You
We abide we abide in You

Chorus
Where can my soul find living water
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GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lector: Almighty God,

All: we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.
By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy,
live according to it,
and grow in faith and hope and love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

READING: ROMANS 8:1-11

Lector: A reading from the book of Romans.

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of
the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God
has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in
the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the
just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh
but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on
the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the
things of the Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit
is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does
not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please
God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.
Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in
you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11
If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ
Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells
in you.

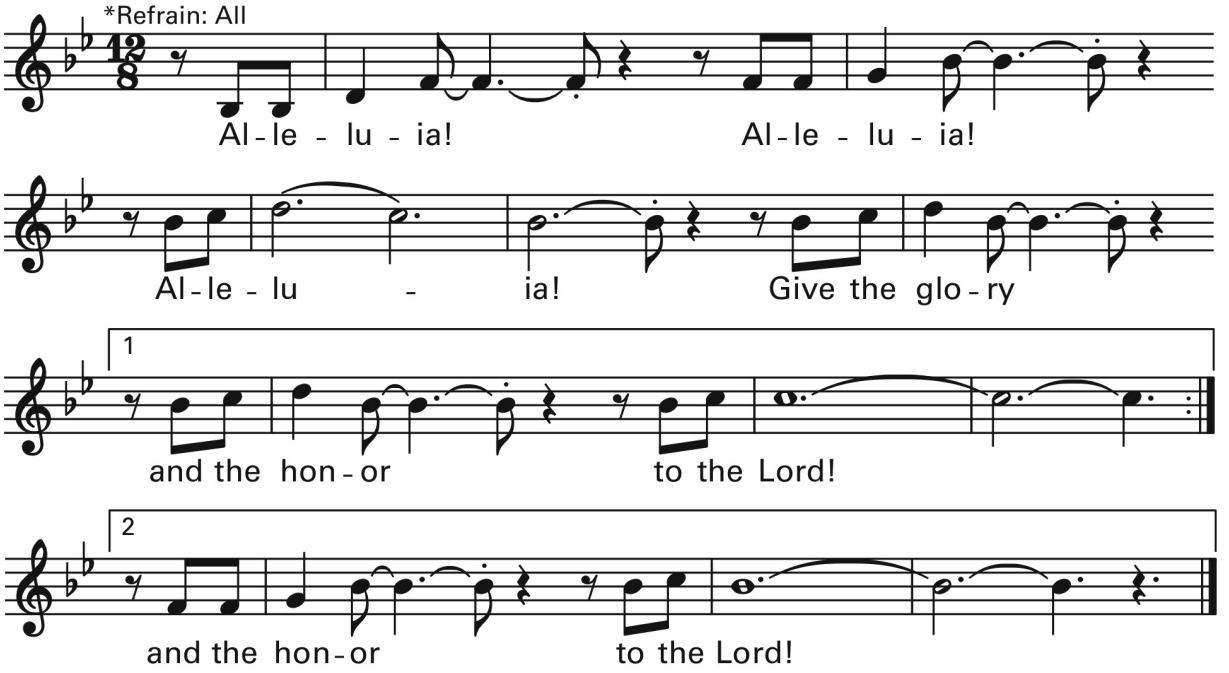
Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA! GIVE THE GLORY

Mass of Glory
Ken Canedo



*Gathering and Gospel Acclamation verses are available in the accompaniment books.

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GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds
gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on
the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out
to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them
up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they
sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were
scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns,
and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth
grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have ears, hear!"

18 "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom
and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the
heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is
the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet such a person has
no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of
the word, that person immediately falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this
is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the
word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who
hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a
hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY: FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION ELW 679

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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Please be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALM: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

ALM: God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

ALM: God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

ALM: God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. Bring an end to conflict and division especially in the Middle East and Ukraine. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

ALM: God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns. We especially pray for Dave, Diane, Anita, Nancy, Debra, Carol, Noelle, Lou, Carole, Brian, Jim, and those we name silently and aloud (brief silence). Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

ALM: God our source, tend this assembly with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among us. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

ALM: We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith. We pray for the family and friends of Keith Winters. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

ALM: O God, bless all those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and celebrations of all kinds this week. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Pastor: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

ALM: Loving God,

All: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

Please stand as you are able

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

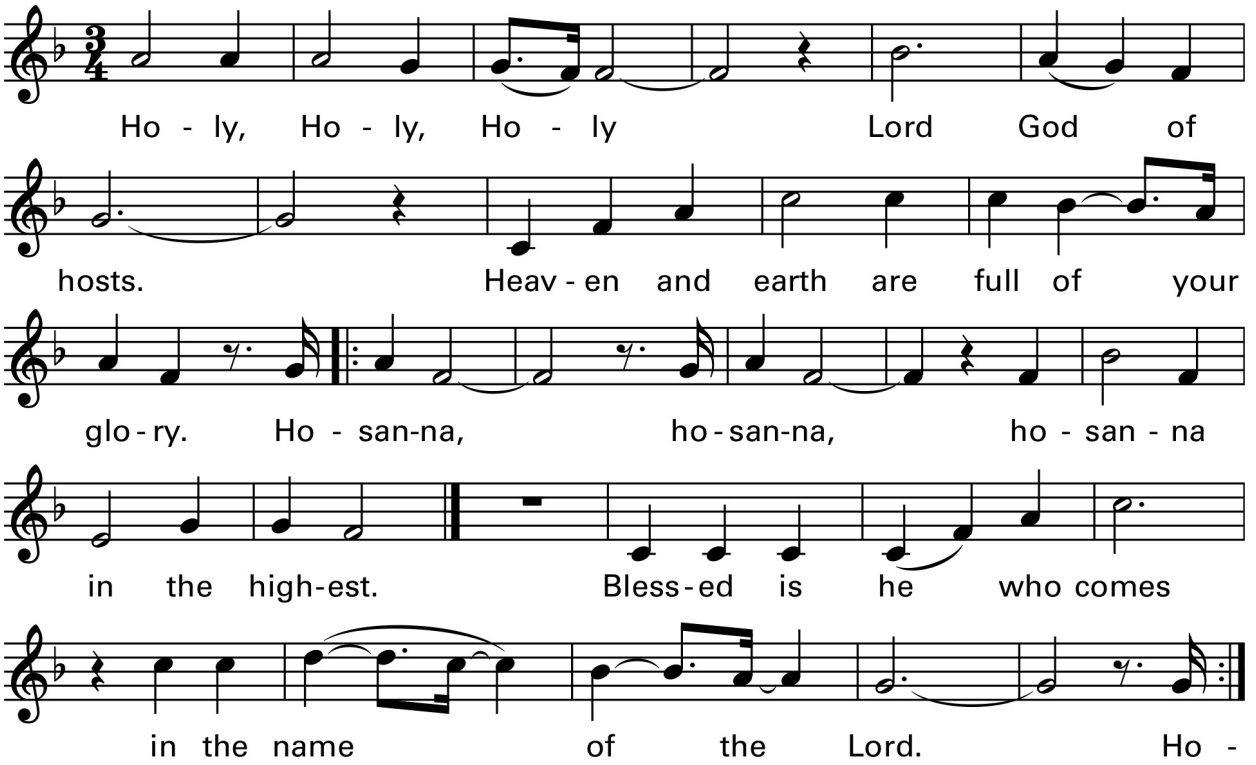
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

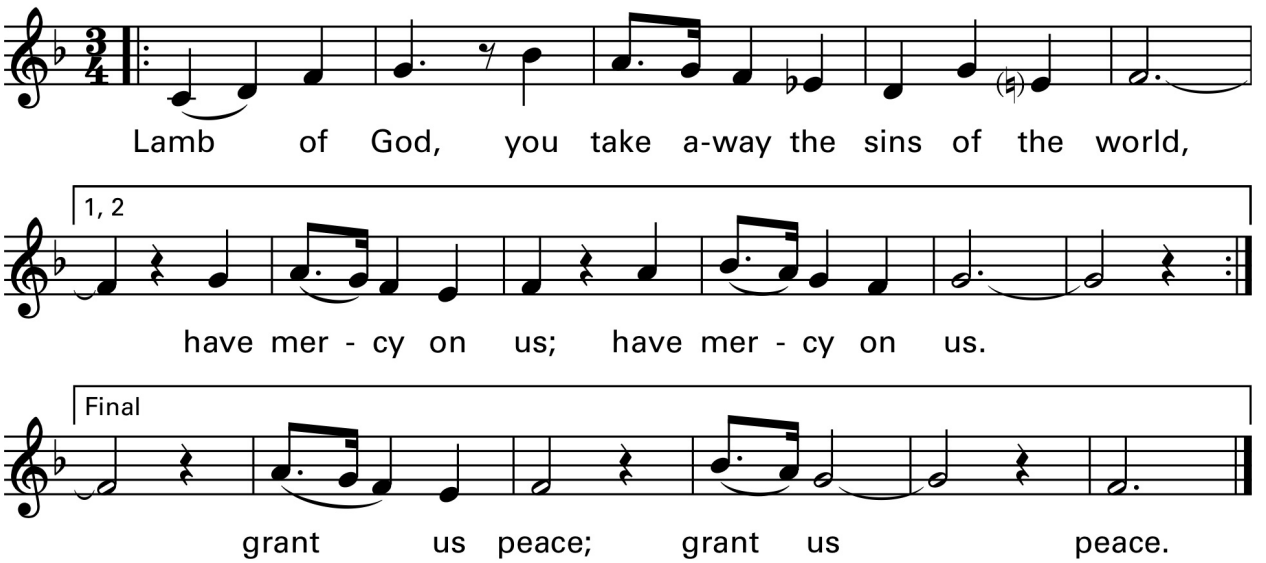
All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD



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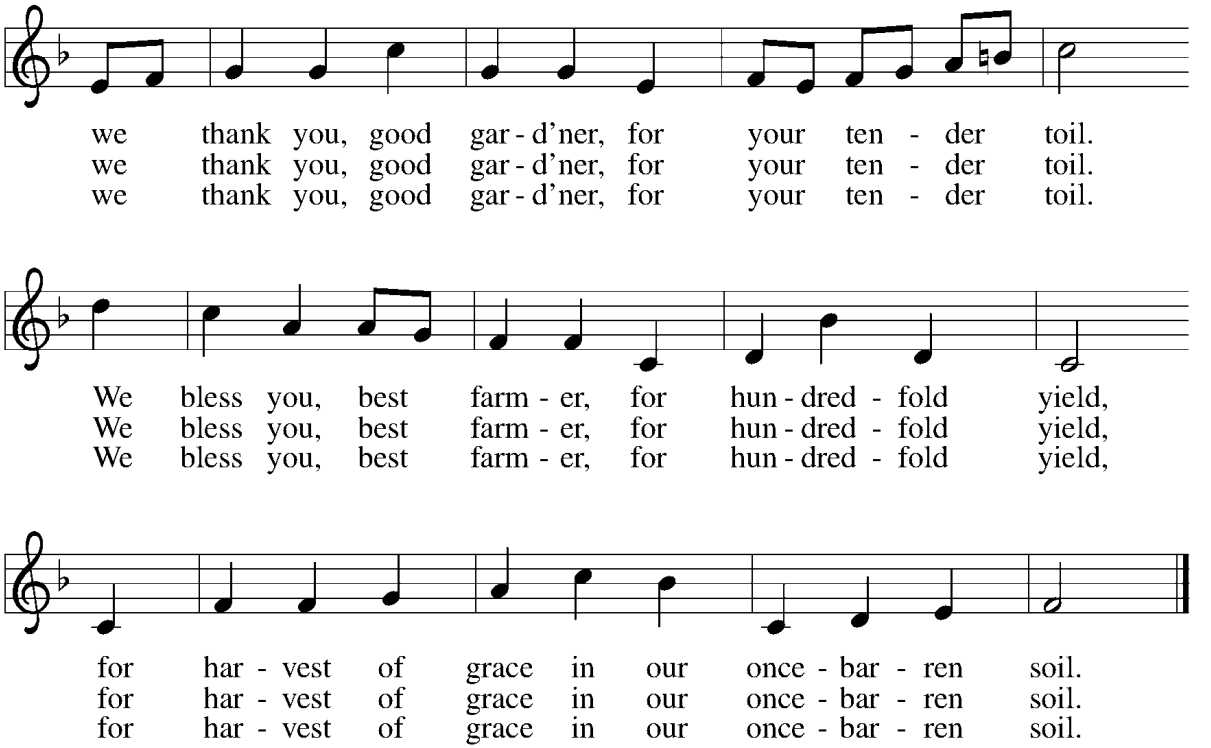
COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table and so we offer to everyone, without exception, to share in Holy Communion. If you would like to receive communion with us today, please come forward and hold out your hands. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please let the server know. When you receive the bread you may dip it in the wine (darker in color) / juice (lighter in color). If you choose to take the individual cup,. please discard the cup after drinking. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please place your hand over your heart. If you are a visitor and would feel more comfortable, you are welcome to remain seated.

If you would like to receive communion but cannot come forward, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

COMMUNION HYMN: AS RAIN FROM THE CLOUDS ELW 508



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896
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Please stand as you are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ALM: Compassionate God,

All: **through the gifts of bread and wine**
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: THE BLESSING CCLI

Verse
The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace

Chorus
Amen
Amen
Amen

Amen
Amen
Amen

Verse
The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace

Chorus
Amen
Amen
Amen

Amen
Amen
Amen

Bridge 1
May his favor
Be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family
And your children
And their children
And their children

Bridge 2
May his presence
Go before you
And behind you
And beside you
All around you
And within you
God is with you
God is with you

Bridge 3
In the morning
In the evening
In your coming
And your going
In your weeping
And rejoicing
In your waking
And your sleeping

Chorus
Amen
Amen
Amen

Amen
Amen
Amen

CCLI Song # 7147007
Chris Brown | Cody Carnes | Kari Jobe | Steven Furtick
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SENDING

ALM: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

All: Thanks be to God.

Next Week:

July 19, 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Intro: 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.

Readings: Isaiah 44:6-8 / Psalm 86:11-17/ Romans 8:12-25 / Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Elim Worship Team

The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson, Pastor ····· Presiding Minister
Robin Merrill ····· Assistant Lay Minister
Lauren Haile ····· Music Director
Erin Hetrick-Hohenner····· Office Manager (Elim Express, Announcements)
Barb Villa····· Bulletin Production
Richard Maxon ····· Bookkeeper
Paul Haile, Andy Hohenner, Kevin Prime, Maria Svinth ····· Tech Audio/Video

Special thanks to all our volunteers who helped with our worship service

Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson's Email - pastorkathryn@elimpetaluma.org

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