



Making disciples who make disciples
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2020

Church Worship & Office Location

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Worship Service Times

Sunday 11:30 a.m. & Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

Church Mailing Address:

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Yuma, AZ 85366

Find us Online: ctryuma.org

Find us on Facebook:



Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church,
A Christian Community

Parish Council Members

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Next Parish Council Meeting

July 29, 2020

Currently services are on Facebook ONLY.

The virtual live stream begins at 11:30 a.m.

Please join us!

In Other Words – Weeds

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus uses a lot of metaphors to describe his kingdom. He describes it as a mustard seed, yeast, a treasure, a fine pearl, and as fishing net bringing in a huge catch. Jesus also specifically declares a separation of souls with some being brought into the kingdom and others being cast aside. We don't feel comfortable with that part and tend to gloss over or ignore those statements—they don't support the Jesus we created.

This Sunday's passage (Matt 13:31-33, 44-52) opens with "He put before them another parable..." which should lead us to look back to the previous passage for the initial parable Jesus told them.

That was last Sunday's Gospel reading about a farmer planting wheat, and an enemy adding weeds. When a worker asked about pulling the weeds, he was told to wait until the harvest so as not to pull up the good wheat with the weeds. At the harvest, "*first collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn*" (Matt 13:30 NIV). This, by the way, is the exact opposite progression of the 190-year unbiblical idea of a *rapture*. Jesus describes the evil people being destroyed and then the saved being brought into paradise in every description of the end times (even his reference about the end being "like in the days of Noah" in Matt 24:38 and Luke 17:27—when the evil people were swept away in the flood and the good remained). For 18 centuries there was no discussion or thought of a *rapture*, which is a good indicator of flawed theology.

Returning to the text guides us in noticing another popular, but unbiblical, belief: *universalism*. Between the sections where Jesus is describing his kingdom, his disciples ask him to explain his

earlier parable about the wheat and weeds (darnel). That explanatory part is left out of the lectionary, ostensibly to eliminate the distraction during the discussion about Heaven. We forget, apparently, that Matthew put the distraction in place there deliberately. So, let's look at the missing segment of Matt 13:34-43.

*Jesus spoke all these things to the crowds in parables, and he was saying nothing to them without a parable,³⁵ in order that what was spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled, who said, "I will open my mouth in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden since the creation" (Asaph, Ps 78:2).³⁶ Then he left the crowds and came into the house, and his disciples came to him saying, "Explain the parable of the darnel in the field to us."³⁷ So he answered and said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,³⁸ and the field is the world. And **the good seed**—these are the **sons of the kingdom**, but **the darnel** are the **sons of the evil one**.³⁹ And the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. — Matthew 13:34–39 (LEB)*

Many Christians repeat and believe the false statement, "We are all children of God" despite that fact that Jesus says multiple times that we are not. We are all *created by* God, as John tells us in his Gospel prologue:

All things came into being through him, and apart from him not one thing came into being... — John 1:3

But verse 38 tells us emphatically, we are not all sons of God (*sons* refers to our ability to inherit, not our sex). When we understand the word, "darnel," the image becomes even clearer to us. Many English Bibles translate the Greek word *zizania* as "weeds" (ESV, NRSV, NIV) or "tares" (KJV, NKJV, NASB). "Weeds" applies to a broad range of unwanted plants, most of which are easily recognized as such at a glance. "Tares" is an archaic term for "darnel." *Darnel* describes a particular plant (ryegrass) that looks almost identical to wheat when young (especially the seeds). The kernels they produce, however, are blackish and poison. This toxic plant is hard to recognize amid the healthy wheat until it starts to "bear fruit" (so to speak). Then the difference is more apparent.

The first photo below (left) is of wheat. The second (middle) photo is darnel. The third photo (right) is both wheat and darnel together in a field. Unlike the weeds we see in our flower gardens at home, darnel looks like the rest of the healthy crop.



Getting scared yet? See, Jesus isn't really talking about farming. He's talking about his own followers, who will be called Christians within two decades at Antioch, and all those who will be following afterward. He's not referring to unbelievers; he's describing people who seem to be like disciples, but really aren't. By outward appearance they look almost identical to followers of Jesus Christ. They actually are noxious chameleons, stealthily camouflaged within congregations, but known and recognized by God, who will remove them from his harvest according to his own timeline.

“Fake it until you make it” is a self-help aphorism that does not work in discipleship. God knows our hearts. Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah (29:13) saying, *“This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far, far away from me”* (Matt 15:8; Mark 7:6). In other words, they are darnel.

Thus just as the darnel is gathered and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ *The Son of Man will send out his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all the causes of sin and those who do lawless deeds,* ⁴² ***and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!*** ⁴³ *Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. The one who has ears, let him hear!* ⁴⁴ *Matthew 13:40–43*

Jesus' statement in verse 43 is a blatant rejection of universalism (the belief that everyone will be reconciled with God and go to Heaven). Just in case his listeners didn't catch the intensity of his statement, Jesus repeats it verbatim just eight sentences later in verse 50, this time in describing fish that are collected in a net. Good fish are put in containers and bad fish thrown out.

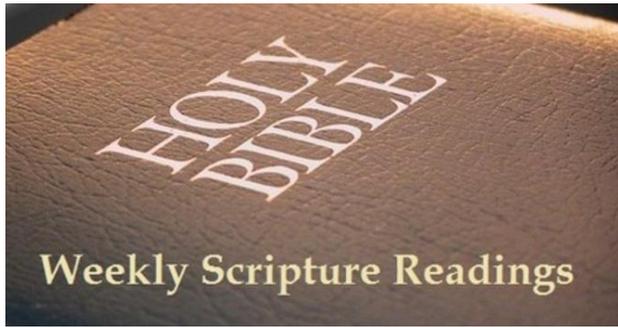
Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the evil from among the righteous ⁵⁰ ***and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!*** — *Matthew 13:49–50*

In describing Heaven, Jesus includes the warning that counterfeit Christians will not get in. True disciples, who are obedient to his commands, who truly turn away from their sins to follow him, who share his message of salvation with others are the ones he will welcome into his kingdom. The others who think going through the motions is good enough will be surprised to discover it is not.

Be wheat.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Austin



Readings for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136;
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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Those Who Serve

Lessons ~ Alan Kircher
Prayers ~ Katy Mize
Altar Guild ~ Sherri Wayman

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Sunday, July 26

11:30a.m. Worship Service (via Facebook)

Tuesday, July 28

6:30 a.m. Bible Study – Esther (via ZOOM)

Wednesday, July 29

2:00 p.m. Bible Study - Pauline Letters (via ZOOM)

5:30 p.m. Worship Service (in church & via Facebook)

6:30 p.m. Parish Council (via Zoom)

Sunday, August 2

11:30 a.m. Worship Service (via Facebook)



Lord, we ask you to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in sickness, or any other adversity. Open the hearts to know your love and feel your presence.

We pray for Bishop Keith, Abbie Bundy, Alfredo & Lilian Campa, Betty (Bo Peep) Penny, Donna, Kate Campa, Dcn. Linda, Lorraine Chavez, Steve Chacon, Merle Shyne, Laura, Darlene O., Maddy, Lauren, Steven, Elena, Armida, Armida's mother, Officer Shay K. Mikalonis, Niki, Roni, Bob, Carol, Carrie, Diane and Al, Mickey Greenlund, and Pray for the World.

If you would like to submit prayer requests for this newsletter or if you have any updates, please contact the church office at 928-343-9551, or ctryuma@gmail.com

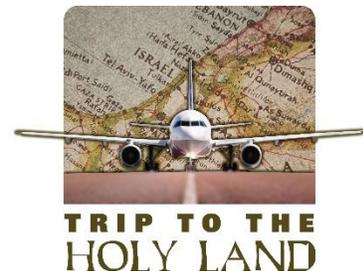
PRAYERS FOR THE DEANERY OF ARIZONA

The Rev. Austin and Mary Mansfield, Christ the Redeemer, Yuma, AZ

Deacon Linda Stokes and Everett Whitacre, Christ the Redeemer, Yuma, AZ

Deacon John and Carol Jordan, Desert Oasis Fellowship, Las Vegas

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Don't forget to check out the attachments to this newsletter. The itinerary and registration form for Fr. Austin's trip are available for you to peruse. Reserve your spot so you don't miss out on this wonderful trip!

CTR PRAYER PROJECT

Exodus 34:6-8—{After God had Moses replace the shattered stone tablets}—Then the Lord passed by in front of him {Moses} and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;”

I consider myself to be a compassionate person. Up here in the forest, we watch a lot of movies, and my husband is always asking me, “Are you crying yet?” It doesn’t matter if the movie has a happy ending or a sad one, I have so closely connected my soul with that of the key characters, that whatever affects them, also affects me—deeply. In this passage from Exodus, God, Himself, is telling Moses that He is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth. All we have to do to confirm this is read His Word. The stories in the Bible are full of examples of His character. God doesn’t have to work at being any of these. It comes naturally to Him because it is part of His nature. But unlike the Lord, I am often quick to anger; it angers me to see violence in our city streets, rioting and looting, name-calling, destruction of monuments, disrespect for those in authority, disregard for our nation’s laws, and the like. And being SLOW to anger is a choice I have to make. The same is true with compassion, grace, lovingkindness, and truth. It is fairly easy for me to stray from these and do what comes naturally, but thanks be to God, He has given me freedom of choice. And with guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit, I can make the right choice. I can choose to behave as Christ behaved, rather than in a manner more closely suited to my humanity. It’s all part of the new nature Christ gave me when I surrendered my will to His, my life to His, my future to Him. Right now, we all need a little bit more compassion, grace, patience, kindness, and truth. When we focus on the world around us, or on the selfish ambitions of people in the limelight, we miss the mark. We lose sight of our Lord and Master and our priorities get waylaid. We forget Whom we are supposed to be following. We begin living for ourselves instead of for our God. And before we know it, we find ourselves on a totally different path than our Lord. Thankfully, we have the Holy Spirit to guide us back to the path set out for us by Jesus; all we have to do is ask. Thankfully, He is right here with us, showing us the way. Thankfully, He is still setting the perfect example for us to imitate. Thankfully, He welcomes us back as His traveling companion. And thankfully, the more we choose to react to circumstances around us in a compassionate, gracious, patient, kind, and truthful way, the easier it becomes. If the times have become frustrating, difficult, confusing, challenging, or

discouraging, it’s likely because we have abandoned our Mentor and are focused on all the distractions along the self-appointed path we ourselves have chosen. If we want to **be** like Jesus, we must stay focused on Him and follow in close proximity to Him. The enemy is on the prowl, and his goal is to get us to choose our way over God’s way. How will we know if we are on the right path? Just ask yourself how well you are doing at displaying God’s character in your everyday life.

Praying in One Accord—When our life reflects the character of Jesus Christ, we are likely praying in one accord with His Spirit.

Accord Prayer—Lord Christ, behaving in a Christian manner doesn’t come naturally to us; help us choose to be focused on You, so we can imitate Your character, Your will, and Your way. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving—Patient Father, thank You for being slow to anger and for showing compassion to Your people, even when we go astray; thank You for Your steadfast lovingkindness. Amen.

Our Victory in Christ (Romans 8:26–39)

S A I N T S C H R I S T E E H
U B T U T E O M F B K U B W P
R N N R E P N T O G E T H E R
T C A G W A F H R H J H D H A
O E A I A R O I E A U E A E Y
H M W L N A R N K L S B U L L
I T M K L T M G N S T B H P F
O A I S G E E K E O I E L S F
P C N L P H D R W J F C I K E
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E N J M H O S E A R C H E S D
Y G O C G V I P T O B L A J O

ACCORDING	ALSO	BECAUSE
BEHALF	CALLED	CHRIST
CONFORMED	DEATH	FOREKNEW
GOOD	GROANINGS	HEARTS
HELPS	IMAGE	INTERCEDES
JUSTIFIED	KNOW	LIKEWISE
LOVE	MINDSET	PRAY
PREDESTINED	PURPOSE	SAINTS
SEARCHES	SEPARATE	SPIRIT
THING	TOGETHER	UNEXPRESSED