



Week of July 19 – July 25, 2026

8th Sunday after Pentecost

FOCUS VERSE

Matthew 13:24b

^{24b}...The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field.

SERMON NOTES:

What stood out in this week's sermon? (Theme, phrase, reference, etc.) What questions stir up within you? What do you want to explore further?

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT by Rev. John Locke

The master of the field has gone to the expense of planting good seed. And yet, he doesn't express anger or dismay at the news of someone trying to ruin his crop by planting weeds. He almost seems to expect it. It was planted with good intentions – to bring a harvest, bless others, support life, etc. But in a covert operation, an enemy tries to destroy him. The owner is not distracted from his mission. Just before the harvest, he tells his workers, separate the weeds. Then the remaining good plants will still bring the blessing.

CONSIDER:

How do you respond to the “weeds” in your life ... the anxiety, unfairness, injustice, discrimination, etc.? Are you able to remain focused on the things that bring life, beauty, blessing, or inspiration? Keep a journal this week; describe the weeds. Now focus on your reaction to the good plants. Which descriptions take more pages in the journal?



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BEYOND SUNDAY:

**Readings intended to help you reflect and digest this week's worship service.*

MONDAY: Psalm 139:14 (*The Psalmist begins a journal with a blessing*)

Most **MEMORABLE** verse for you, in this passage, at this time?

What makes this verse so **MEANINGFUL**?

TUESDAY: Zephaniah 3:7 (*God's city doesn't mind staying weeds*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 75:7 (*God remains in charge over creation*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

BEFORE SUNDAY READINGS:

**Readings intended to help you prepare for the upcoming Sunday:*

THURSDAY: Psalm 150:8 (*God has a power to remember and act*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

FRIDAY: Acts 7:44-53 (*Sometimes, we plant our own weeds*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

SATURDAY: Psalm 119:129 (*The psalmist is planted among good soil*)

Memorable: _____

Meaningful: _____

Read Ahead: July 26, 2026 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Prop 12A)
Genesis 29:15-28; Romans 8:26-39; Psalm 119:129-136 Matt13:31-33, 44-52

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