



## *Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way*

July 19, 2020

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43



### *7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

Good morning friends! When I was little, one of my chores was to weed the flower beds. Our military family lived in base housing and our yard had to be kept to a certain standard. There was even a prize for “yard of the month” which we won a few times! My Dad took great pride in planting the perfect combination of flowers to make our gardens look beautiful...but it was my job to pull out the weeds that choked out the flowers.

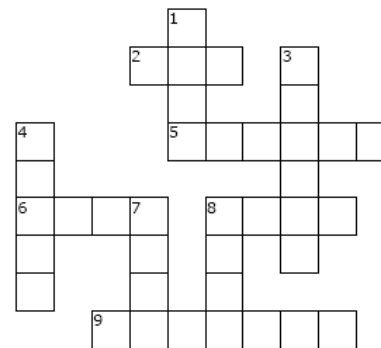
In our Gospel lesson from Matthew this morning, Jesus talks about wheat and weeds growing together. Jesus warns that if we pull the weeds (bad), then we might accidentally pull up the wheat (good) along with it. Jesus says, let them grow together until it's time to harvest.

We have all had times in our lives (even on the same day!) when we are both weeds and wheat. If we had a day when we were weeds, what would have happened if someone had decided to give up on us? God is the ultimate judge of people, not us. It's not our job to say that someone is bad and not worth our time. When we treat everyone the way that we want to be treated, then we've done the job that we've been called to do...to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Loving God, help me not to be too quick to judge others and to leave that job to you. Amen.



## *Crossword Puzzle*



### ACROSS

2. To put seeds in the ground so that plants will grow
5. Small, sharp, pointed growths on the stem of a plant
6. Plants such as grain, vegetables, or fruit grown by farmers
8. A small, usually hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow
9. Not deep

### DOWN

1. The part of a plant which grows down into the earth
3. A person who owns or takes care of a farm
4. Covered with stones
7. A way made by or for people walking on the ground
8. The upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed and in which plants grow

PATH	CROP	SOIL	THORNS	ROOT
SHALLOW	FARMER	SEED	SOW	ROCKY

**Activity:** Some weeds are actually beautiful and have medicinal properties, like dandelions. Did you know you can make dandelion tea to help with your mood? It is full of vitamin B6! Look in your yard this week and identify your weeds, then google them to see if they have benefits.

**Discussion Question** How would you feel if you found out that someone thought you were a bad person just because you were having a bad day?

### **Family Table Prayer for July:**

Fireworks and hot days Lazy Summer kind of ways Family time and memories we share Thank you, God, for Jesus, who always cares. Amen

**July Memory Verse:** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Romans 8:26

# Coloring Page



## The Parable of the Sower

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