

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY
July 23, 2023
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

PSALM 86:11-17 (Common English Bible)

- ¹¹ Teach me your way, LORD,
so that I can walk in your truth.
Make my heart focused
only on honoring your name.
- ¹² I give thanks to you, my Lord, my God,
with all my heart,
and I will glorify your name forever,
- ¹³ because your faithful love toward me is awesome
and because you've rescued my life
from the lowest part of hell.
- ¹⁴ The arrogant rise up against me, God.
A gang of violent people want me dead.
They don't give a thought for you.
- ¹⁵ But you, my Lord,
are a God of compassion and mercy;
you are very patient and full of faithful love.
- ¹⁶ Come back to me! Have mercy on me!
Give your servant your strength;
save this child of your servant!
- ^{17a} Show me a sign of your goodness
so that those who hate me will see it and be put to shame—
- ^{17b} show a sign that you, LORD,
have helped me and comforted me.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13: 24-30, 36-43

²⁴ [Jesus] put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,

⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!