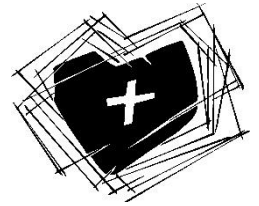


God's Service Sunday, September 1, 2024
15th Sunday after Pentecost
WOV Holy Communion Setting Five: Bread of Life



WELCOME

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts. Let us prepare our hearts and minds as we gather round the font for God's service this morning listening to the prelude.

PRELUDE "Aria" by Handel

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GREETING (WOV p. 28)

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE (WOV p. 29)

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,**

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (WOV p. 30)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your ¹tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ¹holy hill?

²**Whoever leads a blameless life and does ¹what is right,
who speaks the truth ¹from his heart,**

³there is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil ¹to his friend;
he does not heap contempt up- ¹on his neighbor.

⁴**In his sight the wicked ¹is rejected,
but he honors those who ¹fear the LORD. R**

⁵He has sworn to ¹do no wrong
and does not take ¹back his word.

⁶**He does not give his money in | hope of gain,
nor does he take a bribe a- | gainst the innocent.**

⁷Whoever | does these things
shall never be | overthrown. **R**

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 31)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly

wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand:

¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” (WOV 713)

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

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THE PRAYERS

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need.

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts and those we name now. (pause for names to be spoken) Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed (*especially*). We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE (WOV p. 34)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

We are forever stewards of God's great creation. All that we have, all that we are is from God. As God gives abundantly let us be bold in giving back a portion of the abundance that God has first given us, that we might help mend the world and re-align our hearts with the God who is love.

If you have abundance to share today raise your hand and our ushers will come by to collect. If you are joining us online you may give at landerlutherans.org, or even mail a check to the church. However, you decide to steward and share the abundance of our God – thank you and God bless you.

OFFERING MUSIC “I Heard the Voice of Jesus” arr. by Miller

SETTING OF THE TABLE (WOV p. 35)

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

DIALOGUE (WOV p. 36)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE (WOV p. 36)

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (WOV p. 36)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: AUTUMN *Great Thanksgiving*

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,

you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,

and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners

and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his life given for us

and his rising from the grave,

we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,

and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p. 39)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Receive who you are; Become what you receive. Come to this table, you who are strong in faith and you who seek building up. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for some time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who bids us to meet him here and there is a place set just for you at his table.

COMMUNION (WOV p. 39)

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC “Let Us Go Now” arr. by Miller

COMMUNION HYMN (WOV p. 39)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (WOV p. 40)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev’ryone what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ’s holy name.
Send us with your promises, O God, and lead us forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us to join God's mission in the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

And now as you go on your way, may Christ go with you.
May he go before you to lead you,
behind you to encourage you,
beside you to befriend you,
above you to watch over you,
and always, always within you to give you his peace.
In the name of the Father, +the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.

SENDING HYMN "Let Justice Flow like Streams" (WOV 763)

- 1 Let justice flow like streams
of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life,
abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on
as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith
translated into deed.
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight,
define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade
this world our whole life through.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872

Monday, September 2, 2024

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

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