



16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024

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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.

Welcome

Pastor Wolfgang

Confession and Forgiveness

P. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Most merciful God,

C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

The Peace

P. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. **And also with you.**



Greeting

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

C. And also with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
Men

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

All: This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

A. 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.

C. Amen.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

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.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**



Chanted Responsively



¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who | fear the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

Second Reading

James 1:17-27

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.

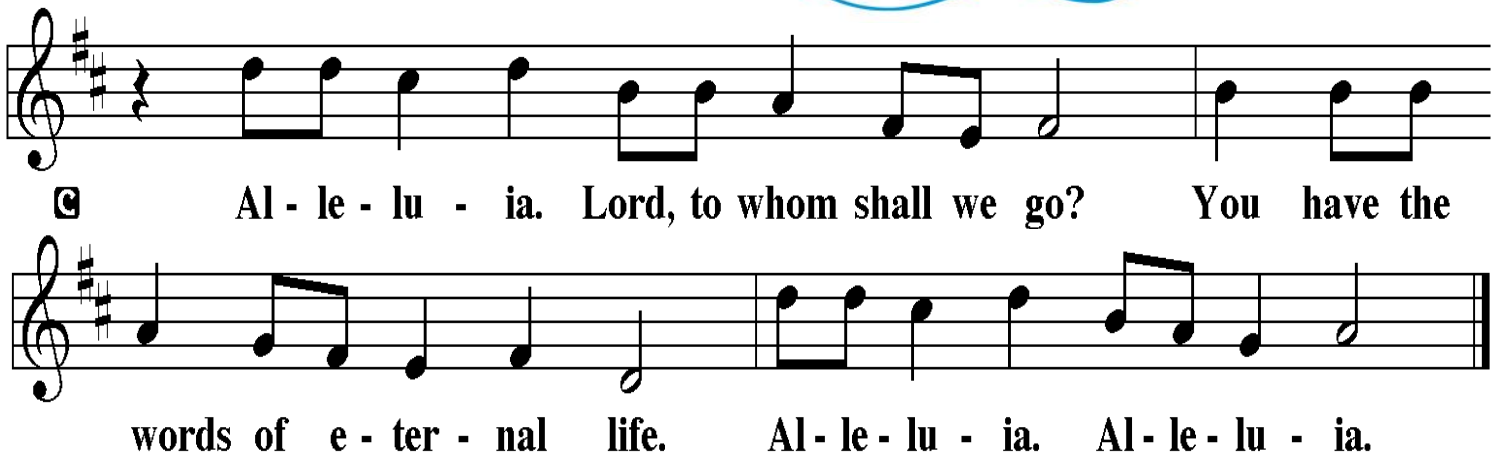
²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia!

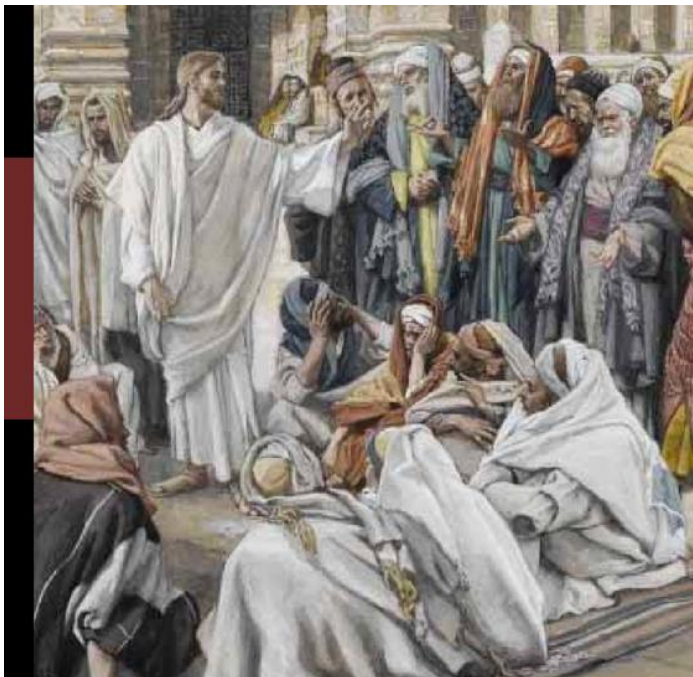
Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P. The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

C. Glory to you, O God.



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL LESSON

MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Pharisees Question Jesus
James Tissot (1836-1902)

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.”

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

“Actions Speak Louder Than Words”

Pastor Wolfgang

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

The Apostles' Creed

L. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C. I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

A. 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.

A brief silence

A. 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,

C. receive our prayer.

A. 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. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe (*especially*). Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. 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,

C. receive our prayer.

A. 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 (*especially*). Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

A. 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,

C. receive our prayer.

Other Prayers

A. 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,

C. receive our prayer.

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

C. Amen.

The Offering

Anthem

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken
Herman Stuempfle, Jr / Marty Haugen

Choir

Let the Vineyards...



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

A. 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.

C. Amen.



The Great Thanksgiving

P. The Lord be with you.
C. And also with you.

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

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

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Lift Up
Your
Hearts*

The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for 'The Sanctus' in G major, 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.'



Words of Institution

P. 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.

The Lord's Prayer

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

P. Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.
All are welcome, no exceptions.

C. Alleluia!

Jesus, Lamb of God

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

Change My Heart, O God
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 801
ELW 631

Post Communion Canticle



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post Communion Prayer

P. 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.

C. Amen



Blessing

P. God all mighty, God most merciful † bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Guide My Feet

TFF 153

Leader

All

1 Guide my feet
2 Hold my hand
3 Stand by me while I run this race.
4 I'm your child
5 Search my heart

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race.
I'm your child
Search my heart

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race,
I'm your child
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Dismissal

- A. Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
- C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Postlude in E-Flat

~ Caleb Simper

Gail Hrobuchak

Servers for Sunday, September 1st

Assisting Minister/Reader Shannon Thomsen
Reader Shannon Thomsen
Altar Guild Sarah Watkins
Greeters/Counters Neil Brennecke / Matt Himmeger
Acolyte Antonio Smith



Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.



Flowers this week
are provided by
Gerry & Joyce Havenstein.

Candles this month are given
by Tom & Alecia Harrison
in honor of
their children's Baptisms.

Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheets are on the board in the hallway.

Keeping You in the Loop



H A P P Y

Labor
Day

Happy Labor Day!

Our church office is closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. For urgent matters, call Pastor Wolfgang at 919-810-3534.

Last chance to sign up! The "Rise Against Hunger" event is set for next Saturday, September 7, from 10 am through 12 noon, at our partner church, Christ the King, in Cary. We plan to pack 15,000+ meals for hungry people around the world. It's a fun event, so plan to bring the family! Wear your yellow "God's Work. Our Hands" T-Shirt; extra shirts will be available at the event. For carpooling, meet at 9:30 am in the LOL parking lot. Here's the link to register: <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/CTK>.

Look your best! Our member Bob DeVito is working to update our picture directory and replace the outdated photos in the Fellowship Hall. If you have not yet done so, please see Bob after worship this week to have your portrait taken. We hope to complete this project by September 8.

National "Back to Church" Day is coming up on September 15. Lord of Life will participate in this event with an exciting outdoor service with special music and a picnic. We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs and ask that you bring a side dish and soft drinks to share; a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office. Starting this Sunday, special invitation cards will be available so you can spread the word and invite family, friends and neighbors to come to church that day.

The next new member reception is scheduled for September 22. If you are interested in joining our growing community of faith or know of someone who should be invited, please let Pastor Wolfgang know.



In Our Thoughts & Prayers



*Pray for people impacted by
devastating flooding in
Connecticut*

Thanksgiving for the birth of Jamison Ellis Stone & for his parents Amanda & Brian

Ian Lambert – deployment to Iraq

Pastor John Petry – eye surgery

Thomas Isaacs – second surgery

Donna Stone – new breast cancer diagnosis

Patti Flynn, friend of Bob - ALS

Denny Garner, Brian Stone's cousin – serious kidney issues

Greg Petersen, long-time friend of Julia Lochra, – serious accident

Linda Mangum, Sheryll Albert's sister-in-law– liver cancer & surgery 8/6

Mike Ritts, friend of Bob DeVito – brain cancer & aspiration pneumonia

Sarah Watkins – job search

David Van Benschoten, Tess Andrews' brother

Tom Harrison

Jerry Hart

Vito and Stella

Phil Garoutte

Bob DeVito



**PLEASE
NOTE...**

Names will remain on the church's Prayer List for **two weeks** unless otherwise requested. Due to privacy concerns, only first names will be read out during worship. Prayer requests can now be submitted on-line at LOLGarner.com.



Lord of Life

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GARNER, NC

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Facebook: Lord of Life Lutheran Church ELCA

"All are welcome, no exceptions!"

Rev. Dr. Wolfgang Herz-Lane, Pastor & Mission Developer

(919) 810-3534

wolfgangherzlane@gmail.com



Monday – Thursday

1 pm to 6 pm

NOTE: To reach Laura outside normal core hours, please use email or call/text to (919) 349-4370.

Special Thanks to our good friends at Able to Serve, Inc.®
for assembling these bulletins!

