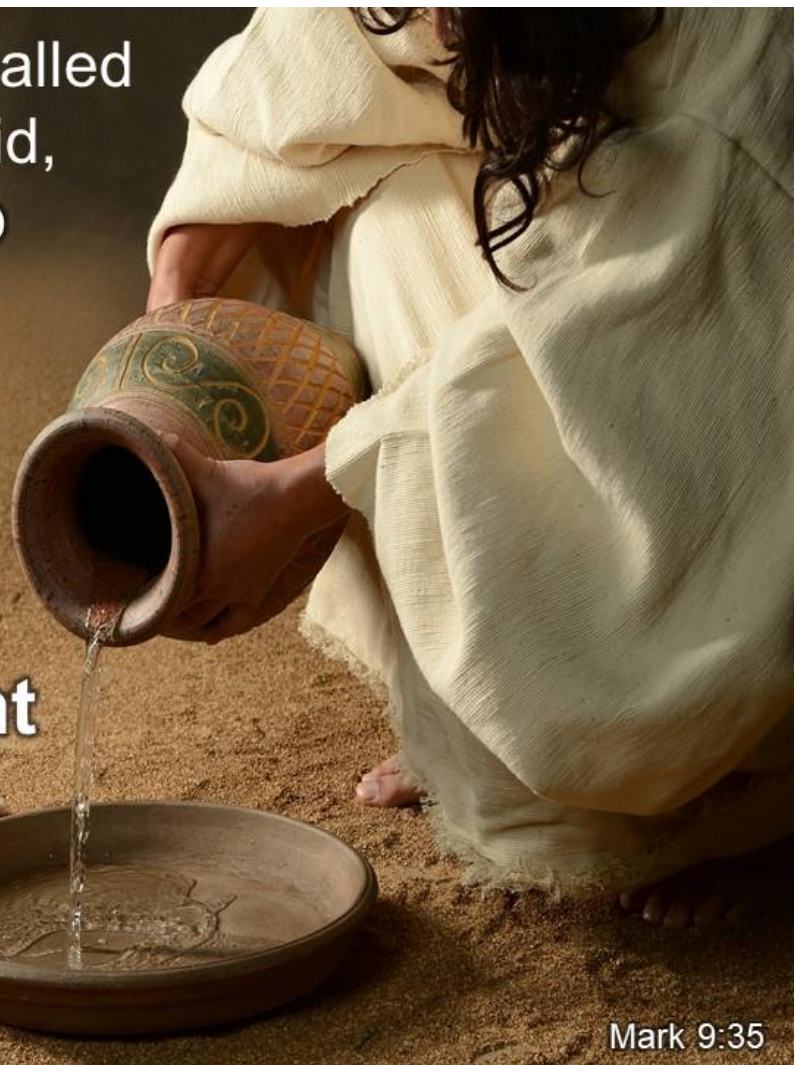


Sitting down, Jesus called  
the Twelve and said,  
“**Anyone who  
wants to be  
FIRST  
must be  
the very last,  
and the servant  
of ALL.**”



Mark 9:35

## 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost September 22, 2024

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Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

Prelude

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*  
~arr. Thomas Keesecker

Gail Hrobuchak

# 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.**



Gathering Hymn

*All Are Welcome*

ELW 641

## 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.**



*This is the feast . . .*

**Women vs. 1, 3; Men vs. 2, 4**

*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. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

**Women:**

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*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. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

**Men:**

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*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. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

**Women:**

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 teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C.** Amen.

## First Reading

## Jeremiah 11:18-20

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,  
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

**L. Word of God. Word of life.**

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 54

Chanted Responsively



<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, | by your name;  
in your might, de- | fend my cause.

**<sup>2</sup>Hear my | prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words | of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me,  
and the ruthless have | sought my life,  
those who have no re- | gard for God.

**<sup>4</sup>Behold, God | is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who | spy on me;  
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

**<sup>6</sup>I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O Lord, for | it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from | every trouble,  
and my eye looks down | on my enemies.



# God is Our Helper

P S A L M 5 4 : 4

## Second Reading

## James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

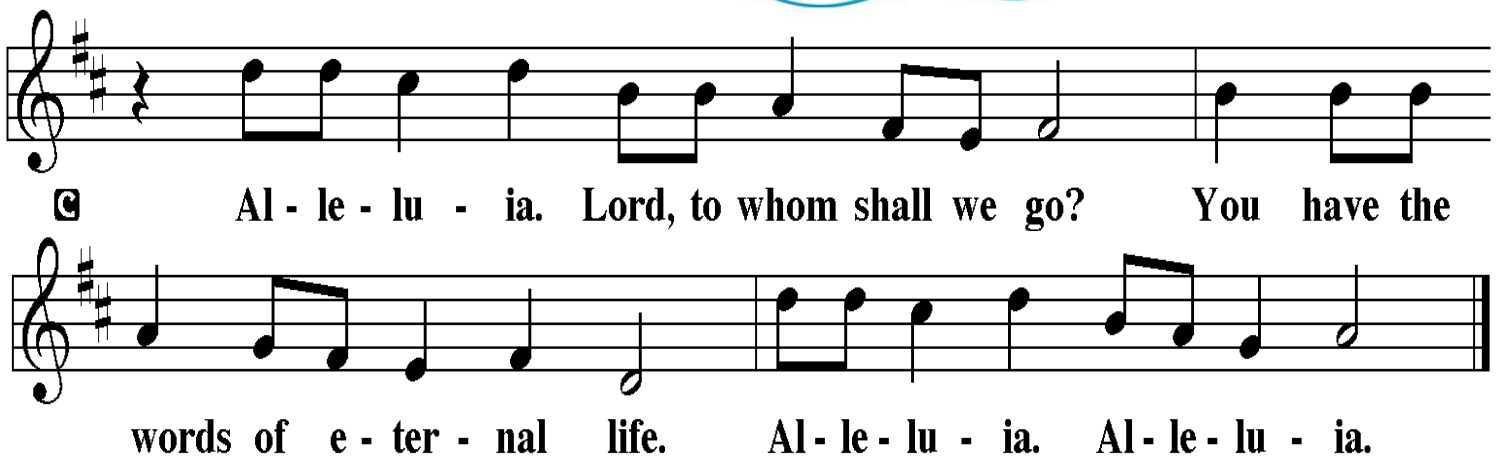
<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

**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 ninth chapter.

**C. Glory to you, O God.**

## Mark 9:30-37

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

**P.** The gospel of the Lord.

**C.** Praise to you, O Christ.



**Sermon**

“Servant Leadership”

Pastor Wolfgang

**Hymn of the Day**

*Have No Fear, Little Flock*

ELW 764



# 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

### 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.** Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

**A.** Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

**A.** Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God

**C. Your mercy is great.**

**A.** Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer (*especially*). Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

**A.** Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

### *Other Prayers*

**A.** Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

**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**      *God So Loved the World*      ~ Aaron David Miller      Choir



### *Let the Vineyards...*



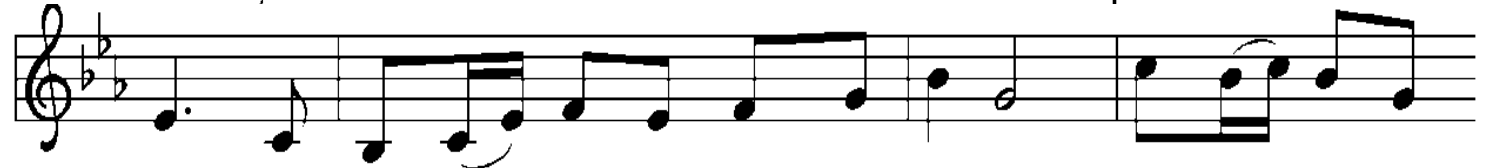
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



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.



## 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*

**L**amb 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

*Jesus Loves Me!*  
*Lord of All Hopefulness*

ELW 595  
ELW 765

## Post Communion Blessing

**P.** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

**C. Amen**

## Post Communion Cantic



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



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice 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

**A.** 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.** Now may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C. Amen.**

**Dismissal**

**A.** Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**C.** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

*Nun danket alle Gott (Now Thank We All Our God)*  
~ Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

Gail Hrobuchak

**Servers for Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Assisting Minister/Reader .....	Carol Wilhelm
Reader .....	Don Wilhelm
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 Mike & Sharyl Eggert in celebration of their grandson, Sawyer Michael Rogan's Birthday.

**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.



# STAY IN THE LOOP

## MEMBER NEWS

**A one-hour training session** for Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) will be held today after worship. LEMs bring the Holy Communion to people in hospitals and nursing homes and those who are homebound. If you are interested in this way of serving, join us at 11:30 am in the conference room.

**We need Candy, Candy, Candy!** LOL will participate in the Town of Garner's Trick or Treat the Trail event at White Deer Park on October 31 and needs to prepare goodie bags for 2,000+ children. Starting this week, we are collecting candy (individually wrapped, no nuts) in the collection box in the lobby.

**It's a busy week at Lord of Life.** We are hosting a luncheon for area pastors and ministry leaders on Tuesday; the Mutual Ministry Committee meets on Tuesday evening; the Visions & Dreams Team meets Thursday. In addition, Pastor Wolfgang has a meeting with Garner Mayor Buddy Gupton on Monday and will attend his first meeting as a member of the Business Alliance at South Garner High School on Tuesday morning.

**We are collecting personal care items and cleaning supplies** for refugee families being resettled by Lutheran Services Carolinas through Sunday, September 29. Please bring in your donations and place them in the box in the lobby by then.

**Our second "Mission Conversation"** with an update from the Visions & Dreams Team will be held next Sunday, September 29, during the Fellowship Hour. Plan now to attend!





*Pray for peace  
in our world.*

Connie Fortmeyer

Tom Harrison

Jerry Hart

Phil Garoutte

Bob DeVito

Donna Stone

David Van Benschoten



**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](http://LOLGarner.com).





# Lord of Life

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GARNER, NC

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Public Wi-Fi network: "Lord of Life" – Password: "ChosenOne"

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](mailto: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!

