

**AUGUST 29, 2021**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**WELCOMING WORD** *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.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

**C: Who may abide upon your holy hill?**

L: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

**C: who speak the truth from their heart;**

L: they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

**C: they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.**

### **OPENING HYMN: #783 (Blue) *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God***

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness  
And all these things will be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find.  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C: Amen.**

L: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: God, our provider

**C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

L: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C: Amen.**

### **INVOCATION**

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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O God our strength,

**C: 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.**

**FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9** <sup>1</sup>So 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. <sup>2</sup>You 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. <sup>6</sup>You 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!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But 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.

**SECOND LESSON: James 1:17-27** <sup>17</sup>Every 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. <sup>18</sup>In 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.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore 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.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But 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.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion 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.

**GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23** <sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and 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.) <sup>5</sup>So 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?"

<sup>6</sup>He 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; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.'<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." <sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

**MESSAGE** Pastor John Twiton

**SERMON HYMN: #423 (Green) *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service***

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed.  
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;  
Consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
By your spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight.  
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF LWR QUILTS**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need

*A brief silence*

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, leaders, and members who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who have suffered the effects of fires, floods, earthquakes and storms. Be with those who are working hard to bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Help us all to be generous in response to the needs of others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Touch with your healing spirit all those troubled by illness or beset by grief (*especially...*) Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**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. 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.**

**BENEDICTION** *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

**CLOSING HYMN:** #532 (Green) *How Great Thou Art* (vs. 1-2)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made.  
I see the stars; I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displaye.

**REFRAIN** Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee. How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; **REFRAIN**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Terri Hermann Meyer (Hazel Hermann's daughter). Ashley Van Galen, Mary Jane Ellis (friend of Bonny Kellogg), Kristin Swedlund-Twiton, Mike Mackler (friend of Char Smith), Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson, Irene Bruflat, Connie Fausett, Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang, Carol Johnson

**Our partner congregation** IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

**ELC COFFEE TIME** Coffee Time meets on **Wednesdays at 10:00am**. Join us at ELC for time to gather and catch up with our church family.



**ELC FAITH CONNECTION**-Our ELC Group on Facebook, *ELC Faith Connection*, is for everyone of all ages. This summer, keep your eyes open for 'hearts' you notice in nature. Share your photos on our Facebook group and we will draw names for gift cards to our local community before school begins. #heartsinthewild. Contact Brenda, if you need help connecting.

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR KATHY & CAROL Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> following worship** Come and share in a time of gratitude and appreciate for the work of Kathy O'Donnell and Carol Engstad as they retire from the ELC office. We will also welcome our new office manager, Nancy Voss. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall following worship for a time to say thank you and pray God's Blessings.

**COLLEGE ADDRESSES:** With many of our young adults moving this fall, we are updating our contact information for graduates of ELC. Please email Brenda ([brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org](mailto:brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org)) with their address, phone and email. If they are attending a college, please list the college as well. For those attending UW Madison, UW Whitewater and UW Platteville, we share names and contacts with Lutheran Campus Ministry. They reach out to them, to help them with their faith journey.

**BUCKY BOOKS '30' FOR SALE** - Bucky Books are available after Sept 2nd! Our youth are fundraising for our two trips in the Summer of 2022. Pick up a copy after worship beginning Sept 12th. (Contact Brenda if you would like one before then). Each book sells for \$35.00. To celebrate 30 years of Bucky Books, each book will include a coupon on page 1 for an ABSOLUTELY FREE Coffee and Donut from Dunkin Donuts! Don't miss out on the new books and their amazing offers!

**7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION BEGINNING** - 7th & 8th graders (& parents too) will meet together on Sept 8th at 7:00 PM, outside on the ELC front lawn. Classes will be weekly, from 7 -8 pm, hybrid style.

7th & 8th graders REGISTER for confirmation, using the following link. <https://forms.gle/cBeeZBssQz1sJz8S8>

**9th GRADE CONFIRMATION -Sept 7th at 7 pm (Tues)** - Youth and their parents will meet on the ELC front lawn to check on their preparations for Confirmation.

**2022 SUMMER YOUTH TRIPS REGISTRATION BEGINS—**

- **YOUTH GATHERING, Mpls, MN - July 24 - 28, 2022** Early Registration begins for the Youth Gathering on September 22. 8th - 12th graders (this fall) are eligible to attend the Gathering. A trip of a lifetime!
- **YOUTHWORKS MISSION TRIP, St Louis, MO - June 26-July 1st, 2022** Our mission trip is open for current high school students. Great opportunity to serve another community. Interested youth should contact Brenda for forms.



**DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 2021**

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding,  
Monday, Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48, A Confession of Israel's Sins  
Tuesday, Deuteronomy 4:15-20, Moses Commands Obedience  
Wednesday, Mark 7:9-23, The Tradition of the Elders  
Thursday, Psalm 146, Praise for God's Help  
Friday, Romans 2:12-16, God's Righteous Judgement  
Saturday, Isaiah 33:1-9, A Prophecy of Deliverance

**TALK: Consider some of these ideas:** <sup>21</sup>*For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder,* <sup>22</sup>*adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.* <sup>23</sup>*All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."* Mark 7:21-23 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.

- Are outward pious practices always an indication of a faithful heart?
- What traditions remain important to you?
- What things did you use to do that don't seem important anymore?

**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.**

**BLESS:** The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**