



Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,
and Caring through Christ***

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 23, 2018

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the + Holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us, the
one who heals us, the one who
reforms us again and again.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power. *(A brief silence.)*

Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough.

We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P: God hears our cry and send the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven + God's love is unconditional. And we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN “God is Here!”

**God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!**

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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: 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 an actual flesh-and-blood child.

We are called to welcome the particular 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)* O God,

C: 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. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

I am
a
child
of God

Two light brown handprints are positioned side-by-side. Each handprint has a white heart shape in the center of the palm. The handprints are slightly overlapping and have a soft, textured appearance.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

A reading from Jeremiah, the 11th chapter.

It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. 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!” 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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 54

R: Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

C: Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

R: For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God.

C: Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

R: Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

C: I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

R: For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye looks down on my enemies.

C: Amen.

SECOND READING: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

A reading from James, the 3rd chapter.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.

For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 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. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from?

Do they not come from your
cravings that are at war within
you? 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.

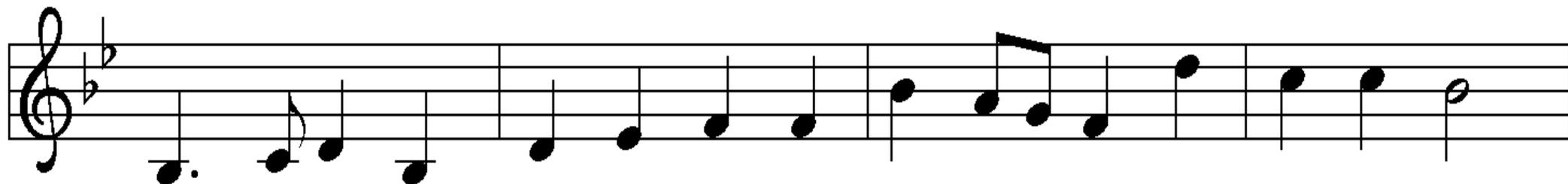
You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

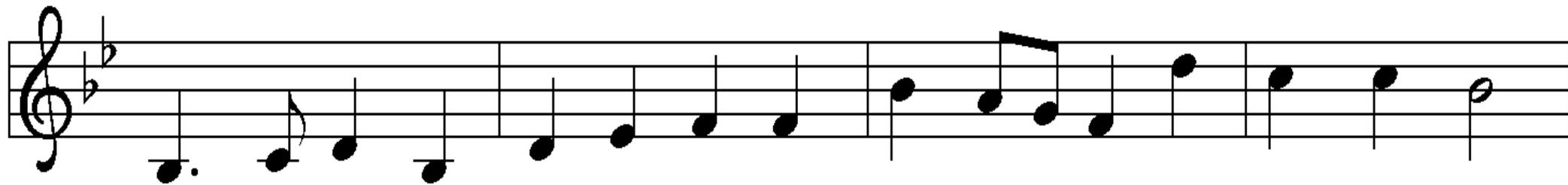
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37.

P: The holy gospel according to Mark,
the 9th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; 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.”

But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “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
“True Greatness”

HYMN OF THE DAY

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

I want to walk as a child of the light.

I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.

The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness,
shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.**

Refrain

***In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.***

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.

**When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.**

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.

The night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 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.**

(*word meaning “universal”;
you may substitute “Christian” if you wish.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation. (*A brief silence.*) Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all those who suffer and mourn (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children in our midst and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: You surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling the story of your loving kindness.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your wide embrace,
gracious God, we commend all
for whom we pray, trusting in
your boundless mercy through
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“Hallelujah Band”

By Gaither Vocal Band

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our savior and Light.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

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 and praise
to the Lord our God.**

**C: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now
and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *“Choral Benediction”*

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the light of God shine on us today.

**May it show us where to travel,
lead us back if we should stray.**

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the love of God live in us today.

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say.**

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways.
May the peace of God be with us today.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world and serve
God with gladness.

C: Thanks be to God.

