

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

9:00 am

## Prelude

## 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.

## Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: ELW #599 "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

1. Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin; from selfish passions set me free and make me pure within.
2. Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed; let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest.
3. Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray; through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.
4. Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when the flood is past, I may the eternal brightness see and share your joy at last.

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## Prayer of the Day

**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.**

## *Readings and Psalm*

### **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.*

<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.

### **Psalm: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

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

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

### **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.*

<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 Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* God gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would become a kind of first fruits of creation. *Alleluia.* (*James 1:18*)

The Holy Gospel according to the book of Mark, beginning with the Seventh chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **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.*

<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."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

## Sermon

Eric Henderson

### Hymn of the Day: ELW #512 *"Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil"*

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the see 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 hart 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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### 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.

### Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### Offering

#### Offering Hymn: ELW #686 *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"* 1<sup>st</sup> verse

1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

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### Offering 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.

## Prayers of Intercession

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

## 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.**

## Blessing

God all mighty, God most merciful ✝ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: WOV #783 "Seek Ye First"

- 1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness;  
And all these things shall be added unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!**
- 2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find.  
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!**
- 3. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word  
That proceeds out from the mouth of God. Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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## Announcements:

- **Worship Time changes** on Sunday, September 8, 2024 from 9:00 am to 10:15 am.
- **Sunday, September 8, 2024**, is God's Work – Our Hands Sunday. Potluck to follow Worship service. After the potluck, we will be asking for volunteers to deliver cookies to members of our Community. Cookies will already be ready for distribution. No baking of the cookies will be required.

- **Wednesday, September 11, 2024**, our weekly bible study will return to Calvary on Wednesday mornings at 9:00. Please join us for coffee as we watch and discuss the video series, "The Chosen". All are invited.
  - September 18, 2024 ~ Bible Study at 9 am.
  - September 25, 2024 ~ Bible Study at 9 am.
- **Tuesday, September 17, 2024**,
  - Minnesota River Conference meeting @ Owatonna, 9 am.
  - Church Council meeting at 6:30 pm.

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