

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

10:15 am

Prelude

Welcome

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.

Announcements

Bible Study on Wednesday, September 25 at 9 am

VIGILS of PRAYER & LISTENING School Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato and North Mankato, together with SSND Associates, welcome you to join them for hour-long gatherings of "Prayer and Listening." The first session will be Thursday, September 26, 7:00-8:00 PM, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 632 S Broad Street. No registration necessary.

VINE is hosting a renewal event for caregivers, *CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER: NURTURING WELLBEING & RESILIENCE* on Thursday, September 26, 12:30 – 2:30 PM, at the Pioneer Bank Conference Room ([1450 Adams St, Mankato](#)). Caregivers are welcome for lunch and a presentation by Dr. Jennifer Londgren, Associate Professor for MSU-Mankato Department of Health Science. Learn about stress management, self-care techniques and building a support network to maintain balance and thrive. Cost is \$20 at the door. Email Joyce by Monday 3 PM to register (joycek@vinevolunteers.org).

Vivian Strand is our Red Rose. On October 9, 2024 she will be 104 years old, and her love for her family and friends remains strong. Please come to the Pathstone Living Chapel on October 12, 2-4 pm to help her celebrate. Pie from the Rapidan Dam Café and Cider Donuts from the Welsh Heritage Farms will be served. Your presence will be your gift to her. Please RSVP at (712) 330-1823 by September 28.

2nd Annual Women's Event Warm your Heart with Plaid! Saturday, November 9, 2024 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. See poster in Narthex for more information.

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 #526 "God is Here"

- 1. 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 your varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. 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.**

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Prayer of the Day

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. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

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

¹⁹But 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!”
²⁰But 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.

Psalm: Psalm 54

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.
²**Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.**
³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.
⁴**Behold, God I is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**
⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.
⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**
⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

Second Reading: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But 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. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You 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. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. God has called us through the proclamation of the good news, that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Alleluia.* (2 Thess. 2:14)

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for 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."³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ELW #781 "Children of Heavenly Father"

- 1. Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.**
- 2. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them in his mighty arms he bears them.**
- 3. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever; unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.**
- 4. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh; his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.**

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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" 1st 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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Preface

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus welcomes you to this table.
Come, here is your God.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Hymn: ELW #595 "Jesus Loves Me!"

- 1. Jesus loved me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.**

Refrain: **Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.**

- 2. Jesus loves me! He who died heaven's gates to open wide; he will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. (Refrain)**
- 3. Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way; when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. (Refrain)**

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Post-communion Blessing Prayer after Communion

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn: ELW #765 "Lord of All Hopefulness"

- 1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy, Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray, Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

- 2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**
- 3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**
- 4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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