



Sunday, September 1, 2024

Lectionary 22, Year B

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 font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in **bold** print and stand, as you are able at the places marked with an *.)*

Prelude:

Welcome and 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 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 with 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.**

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.

***Opening Hymn:.....“Holy, Holy, Holy”...verses 1,2,4.....ELW #413**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

***Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***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**

First 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.

⁷Every 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. ¹⁸In 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.

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia

1* 2

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

3 4

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

** May be sung in canon*

Music: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: © 1983 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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***Gospel:.....Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

*Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

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.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and 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.) ⁵So 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?" ⁶He 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;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

*Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you O Christ.***

Children's Sermon:.....Keith Weatherford

Sermon:.....Keith Weatherford

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

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart 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.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and suitable for children's voices. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
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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**

***Prayers of Intercession:**

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.)

***Prayer Response (each portion of the prayers ends with these words):**

Merciful God, **Receive our prayer**

***Sharing of the Peace:**

*...Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."
(John 20:19)*

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you,
And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say "Peace be with you" or similar words.)

Offering:

(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need, and the communion table is set.)

Offertory Hymn:..... "Day by Day"verses 1, 3.....ELW 790

- 1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest.
- 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

***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.

***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 our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution:**

Holy, mighty, and merciful God, in great love you sent Jesus your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the will of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord: to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

***Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Amen.

***Invitation to Communion:**

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

(We celebrate open communion and all who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.)

Distribution Music:.....Angela Conley

***Prayer After Communion:**

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.

Amen.

***Benediction:**

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

***Sending Hymn:..... “Lead On, O King Eternal!.....ELW 805**

Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence - forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad - ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917
 Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

***Dismissal:**

Go in Peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

***Postlude:**

In our prayers: Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Isla Johnson, Jeff Wahl, Christina Tielking, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Ken Downing, Mark and Renee Slocum, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, Kamila Ruth Baker, Vicki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Will and Peyton Johnson, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland.

Tami Rhodes' family as they grieve the death of her mother, Doris Bishop

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care: All the Saints in Heaven

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound: Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy: Evan Ceaicovschi, Raffy Suchikul, Maggie Smiedala

Missionaries: Missionaries around the world, Willie Langdji in Cameroon

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Sunday, September 1, 2024

9:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion

10:30 am-Fellowship

Monday, September 2, 2024

Office closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Noon- Caring Friends meeting

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Quilting, 9 am—noon

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

12-1pm-WELCA Fall Luncheon

General Business Meeting 12-1

Wednesday September 11, 2024

Noon- Memorial Committee meeting

6:30 pm Midweek Connection Potluck

Thursday, September 12, 2024

2 pm-Touchmark service

6 pm- Book Club

7 pm- Choir Rehearsal

Sunday September 15, 2024

Kick Off Sunday; Pie Social

11:45-New Testament Bible Study

Monday September 16, 2024

6 pm- Hand Bell Choir

Tuesday September 17, 2024

Noon-New Testament Bible Study

Wednesday September 18, 2024

6:30 pm-Worship

7 pm- Class

Lutheran World Relief School Kits We have all the school supplies to fill 200 school kits for Lutheran World Relief next spring. Thanks be to God!

September Social Ministry Helena Area Refugee Resettlement Team—current needs are household items, employment opportunities, vehicle, volunteer drivers. Call 406-422-1199 or handsonglobal.org/category/hart

October Social Ministry Fall Youth Ministry Project: 20 Thanksgiving baskets for Helena Middle School families

November Social Ministry ELCA Campus Ministry annual Cat/Griz collection

December Social Ministry Florence Crittenton/ELCA Good Gifts Giving Tree

Midweek and Sunday School September 11th at 6:30 pm— Midweek Connection Potluck Kick-off (and birthday celebration!) Come for some “Space of Grace” and hear all about our lineup for our Wednesdays for the fall. We will also go over Confirmation Class requirements and class is open to all 6th-8th grade students. Our weekly Sunday School class will resume on Sunday, Sept. 15. Class is open to all elementary aged students, and we need for more Sunday School teachers to be on call. Please speak to Gretchen if you are interested and available to help.

Ministering in Worship

Preaching & Presiding	Keith Weatherford
Worship Musician	Connie Conley
Choir Director	Connie Conley
Technology	Angela Conley
Acolytes	
Ushers	
Lector	Jennifer Wintersteen
Communion Servers	Deanne Stegmann, Ron Stegmann Kirsten Weatherford, Gwynn Munding
Prayer Station	Bing Crosby
Altar Guild	Jennifer Wintersteen, Susan Frey, Kay Elverum

New Option for online giving. Please use the code here for a mobile device online giving. Questions on how this works? Please contact the church office



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