

**18th Sunday After Pentecost
September 26, 2021**

Rev. Kelley Pedersen, Interim Pastor



Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

(*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

Welcome & Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.
Amen.

***Hymn** "How Small Our Span of Life" #636

***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**

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?

4The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

10Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. 11So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? 12Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? 13Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' 14I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. 15If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

16So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

24So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. 25Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

26Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. 27And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" 29But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 19:7-14

The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

7The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**8The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

9The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**10More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

11By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**12Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in
your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading: James 5:13-20

Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

13Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. 17Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, 20you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation -- p. 102**

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9th Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.

38John said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." 39But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40Whoever is not against us is for us. 41For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. 43If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. 47And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, 48where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49"For everyone will be salted with fire. 50Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" #719

Apostles' Creed p. 105

***Prayers of Intercession**

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 and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for natural wonders of your creation (*local waterways, forests, and natural areas may be named*). Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, acolytes, and ushers (*other roles may be added to reflect your context*). Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

***Peace Offering and *Offering Prayer**

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
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.**

***Holy, Holy, Holy** p. 144

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer** p. 145

***Invitation to Communion**

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

Communion (continuous)

Come forward in the center aisle, distancing as desired. Please cup your hands to receive the bread. Return to your pew via the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available in the container in front of the font.

Those who wish to be served at their seats or use the individual pre-packaged elements at their seats may stand to hear the words for individual distribution.

Distribution Hymns: "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" #484 and "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" #800

Prayer after Communion

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***Blessing**

People of God, you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, † one God,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** "Give to Our God Immortal Praise" #848

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

Baptized believers sent into God's world to share God's love and grace.

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Welcome! May you be blessed as we worship together!

Pr. Kelley can be reached at 402-750-9944 (cell).

Worship Assistants for September:

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Dave & Patti Christiansen
Scripture Reader: Denny Bain	Offertory Accountants: Steve & Lisa Rippke
Tech Assistants: Rebecca Brockhaus	

Worship Assistants for October:

Organist: Ruth Chartier	Altar Guild: Janna Brandt & Marcia Kuehl
Scripture Reader: Ann Hopp	Offertory Accountants: Julie Davidson & Nick Wahlberg
Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton	

This Week's Events: Sept 26-Oct 2

Sun.	9:00am	18th Sunday after Pentecost Worship
	10:15am	Congregational Meeting to elect Call Committee
Mon.		Office Closed
Tues.	7:00pm	AA Meeting (Contact person is Larry S., 712-251-4207)
Wed.	3:30-5pm	Kid's Zone (through grade 6)
	6:00-7:15p	Confirmation begins

Upcoming Events:

Sun, Oct 3	9:00am	Worship w/ Communion
Sun, Oct 10	9:00am	Worship w/ Communion
	10:15am	Council Meeting after worship
Sun, Oct 17	9:00am	Worship
	10:00am	Congregational gathering to share TLC's past, present & future
Sun, Oct 24	9:00am	Worship
	10:00am	Congregational gathering to share TLC's past, present & future

We pray for two households--members and friends--this week Dustin & Lindee Brosamle & family and Casey, Jill, Jacey, Blake & Hanna Stratton.

At Air Guard Tech. School in Biloxi, MI: Blake Morgan

For those battling cancer: Denise Arpino-treatment; Doug Dahlke; Brad Pautsch--treatment plan pending (Cindy Ploen's brother); Marj Sanderson-hospice; Michelle Stovie (Harry Kloewer's daughter-chemo)

We also pray for **Jo Sparr (in hospice); Stanley (Gloria Healy's brother-in hospital with COVID)**; Kendall Riedger (broken leg & pending surgery); Amanda Thorson & baby Trice (Liz Wahlberg's sister); Amber Bock; Carla Boggs; Howard Hustedt (Janna Brandt's uncle); Jon Kleemeier (rehab at home); Barb Kunkel; Drake Malm; Logan Malm; Tucker Malm; Kelly Martin; Salina Shaw (Larry Stroman's niece); Paula Roling; Jo Sparr; Kereen Swanger (recovering from stroke-back in the hospital); those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

On Ushers' Table:

- Children's bulletins
- Lutheran Disaster Response - US Wildfires information, Haiti earthquake relief
- **List of LWR personal care & school kit items; still collecting through Sunday, October 17--please drop off items in the entryway!**

Birthdays: 28-Dave Christiansen; 29-Becky Butters; Oct 1-Ashley Martin, Steve McElrath

Anniversaries: 26-Cody & Erica Christiansen

God's Work; Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!

	<u>Sun. 9/12</u>	<u>Sun 9/19</u>
Electronic giving	\$ 142.50	\$ 142.50
Mission Support	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Transition	\$1,320.00	\$ 0.00
General Fund	\$3,820.00	\$1,265.00
Total	\$5,312.50	\$1,437.50

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