



17th Sunday After Pentecost September 19, 2021

Rev. Kelley Pedersen, Interim Pastor

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.

(*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 "Children of the Heavenly Father" #781

***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 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.**

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.

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

Psalm: Psalm 54

God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)

1Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

**2Hear 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.

**4Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

5Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

**6I 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. 8aDraw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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 9:30-37

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 the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day "All are Welcome" #641

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.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict (*especially*). Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today (*especially*). Shine your grace on all your saints. 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.

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

***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** "Drawn to the Light" #593

***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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++ 7th & 8th Graders -- Confirmation planning is in the works! Please reach out to the office if you know of or have an interested student that we have not reached out to yet. ++

Birthdays: 21-Noah Farah, Joyce Miller; 24-Lynn Morgan, Kara Thompson, Harper Wahlberg, Liz Wahlberg; 25-Blair Morgan

Anniversaries: 22-Garrett & Rita Tabke

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