

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Our mission is to proclaim, learn, live and share God’s grace through Christ.”

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021



AS WE GATHER—

Our Father Cares for His Children with the Gospel of His Son

Jesus’ disciples did not understand the prophecy about His death and resurrection. They focused, instead, on their personal greatness. So, He inverted their viewpoint, using a child to explain that true greatness is in humble servanthood, in welcoming even children (then considered to be without status). But our inner passions rebel and war against such servanthood, as James explains in the Epistle. Fortunately, by the gracious gift of faith, in place of personal struggles, we can rely on God, as Jeremiah does in the Old Testament Reading and David in today’s psalm. Our Lord is the humblest and therefore greatest Servant, and by His death and resurrection He has proclaimed that God’s grace knows no bounds. Confidently, we can follow Him in humble servanthood each day.

Welcome Visitors!

We pray your time with us be blessed. We welcome each of you this day in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Pastor Meier is eager to meet with each visitor. Please fill out the "Friendship Register" that is located in each pew and visit the Ministry Center located off the narthex and take a "Welcome" packet to learn more about Peace Lutheran Church.

Moms and Dads, if your young child becomes restless, feel free to use the nursery located off of the Narthex (the gathering space as you enter the church). It is a great resource to parents for staying connected to worship while they are attending to a young child's needs.

What we believe about Holy Communion

Our faith is not exclusive, but God says we should have unity in faith which communion expresses (see 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17). *Therefore, we kindly ask that those who are not confirmed members of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation not commune with us today.* Thank you for respecting our position of love in this matter of pastoral care. If you would like to learn more about what we believe the Lord's Supper is based on God's Word, please speak to one of the pastors. *We welcome baptized adults and children to come to the communion rail to receive a baptismal blessing, if you so desire.* To indicate you would like to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest or keep your hands folded when you come to the communion rail.

For those who are communing today: In order to receive the full blessing of the Sacrament, namely, the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, God's Word instructs that we each examine ourselves in our preparation to receive the Sacrament (see 1 Corinthians 11: 27-29). Ask yourself these questions:

1. Am I truly sorry (contrite) for my sins? (Psalm 50:17)
2. Do I truly believe that I am receiving the very body and blood of the resurrected Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine and, as a result, the forgiveness of sins?
3. Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend my sinful life and be more obedient to Jesus, my Savior?

SERVING THE LORD THIS DAY:

PREACHER/LITURGIST: REV. BRUCE MEIER

ORGANIST: KRISTIN BONILLA

SUNDAY 8:00 & 10:30 AM AND

2ND & 4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:00 PM

RINGING OF BELLS AND WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

LSB 908

(Please Stand)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In today's Epistle, James urges, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded." Let us go to God, echoing David's words in Psalm 54, appointed for today.

Pastor: O God, save me, by Your name,

People: and vindicate me by Your might.

Pastor: O God, hear my prayer;

People: give ear to the words of my mouth.

Pastor: James' words in today's Epistle guide our confession. Gracious God,

People: we confess that as we have desired friendship with the world, we forget that it would mean enmity with God. We confess that our passions are at war within us. We have had bitter jealousy and selfish ambition inside us. In all humility, we come to You, holy Lord, seeking Your peace to calm the war within us.

Pastor: God has not given up on you! He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us. Indeed, He gives more grace. James writes, "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace," and in His death and resurrection, Jesus gave us His righteousness and established peace between us and God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Behold, God is my helper;

People: the Lord is the upholder of my life.

Pastor: With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to You;

People: I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

LSB 809

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray... O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 11:18–20

18The LORD made it known to me and I knew;
then you showed me their deeds.
19But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.
I did not know it was against me
they devised schemes, saying,
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
that his name be remembered no more.”
20But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously,
who tests the heart and the mind,
let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you have I committed my cause.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Lector: Fear the LORD, you His saints,

People: for those who fear Him lack nothing!

Lector: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

People: but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE

James 3:13–4:10

13Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

1What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is en⁵

mity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? 6But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

VERSE

Mark 9:35b

Pastor: Alleluia. If anyone would be first,

People: he must be last of all and servant of all. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:30–37

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

30[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know,

31for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." 32But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

33And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" 34But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 35And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." 36And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, 37"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please Be Seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

LSB 851

SERMON

(Please Stand)

Nicene Creed

**People: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Using the promptings of James in the Epistle, let us pray for the nations around the world, the Church wherever it is found, and for ourselves here in this place.

Wherever nations quarrel and plunge toward war, O God, open the ears of their leaders to hear the wisdom from above and pursue peace.

People: Move them to find joy in humble service.

Pastor: Wherever international alliances, national leaders, and groups within society follow the lead of their selfish ambitions at the expense of the downtrodden and forgotten people across borders and in their midst, O God, give both citizens and their leaders hearts that are open to reason, full of mercy, impartial and sincere.

People: Grant that peace break out across borders and justice within them.

Pastor: Whenever the Church is fraught with boasting, falsehoods, and schisms, O God, send Your Holy Spirit to use Word and Sacrament to bring clergy and lay leaders to repentance.

People: Embolden them to announce with one voice the victory Your Son won for us all.

Pastor: Wherever people respond to illness, accident, injustice, and discrimination, O God, strengthen them to rely on You for protection in all circumstances.

People: Guide them to make decisions in wisdom and to sow righteousness in peace.

Pastor: Whenever our conduct betrays worldly jealousy and selfish ambition, O God, turn our laughter to mourning and our joy to gloom until we recognize Your unending grace.

People: Help us seek to meet the needs of the people around us in humble service.

Pastor: Wherever people call out to You in their distress, [*especially . . .*], O God, visit, relieve, heal, and console them according to Your gracious will.

People: Use us as part of Your answers to their fervent prayers.

Pastor: Whenever we pridefully seek to solve our problems by our own strength, O God, remind us of Your faithfulness, constant presence, and gracious protection for Jesus' sake.

People: Show us how to humbly serve the people around us as You have served us.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, hear us and all for whom we pray, as we rely on Your gracious plans for all we need;

People: through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. 8 Amen.

(Please Be Seated)

OFFERING

(Please Stand)

OFFERTORY



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. His gracious victory has given us peace within, where there was conflict and war. With joy, we receive the salvation He won for us.

Gathered now in His name, we ask You to strengthen our faith to rely on Your Word and Spirit. Gather us together with all the faithful to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, gracious God, we give glory now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

(Please Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Jesus Comes Today with Healing

What Is the World to Me

(Please Stand)

LSB 620

LSB 730

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Agnus Dei



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament,

People: **and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

(Please Be Seated)

DEPARTING HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

LSB 918