



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 129, Wilton, WI 54670
608-435-6647
September 23, 2018
18th Sunday after Pentecost

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 an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular 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.

GATHERING Welcome/Announcements

As God's children we are

Inviting People to Journey with Christ's Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy

You are invited to practice God's Love and Mercy by turning to those around you, greeting one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you," or something similar.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the † holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

**Source of all life,
we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,**

**yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
✠ God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing" **ELW #389**

*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.

*Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
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.
Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

*Canticle of Praise “This is the Feast” ELW pp. 149-150

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.**

WORD

A reading from Jeremiah 11:18-20

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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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 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.

Reading

A reading from James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 151

The holy gospel according to Mark 9:30-37

Glory to you, O Lord

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.**

Sermon

*Hymn

“All Are Welcome”

ELW #641

*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 (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**)

Offering

*Offertory "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

ELW #512

*Offertory Prayer

**God of life,
you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole
creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. 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 our Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”
*Words of Institution
* The Lord’s Prayer
Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ’s table.

“Lamb of God”

ELW p. 154

Prayer after Communion

**Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.
Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me

ELW #595

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

*Ministers: All God’s People Worship Leader: Alyssa Weaver
Organist: Nalani Bever Greeters: Anita Steinke and Lois O’Rourke
Reader: Barb Ornes Communion Server: Greg Bever Altar
Committee: Bev Graunke and Lila Speicher Ushers: Bob Buchholz,
Brian Buchholz, Justin Arndt, Ed Ross*

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Matt Zirk, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty,
Robert Cale

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Shirley Meranti, Ron Clark, Carol Osteboe, Mildred Radke, Lorayne Denter, Marjorie Muhr, Ed Bauer, Jerry Eckelberg, Ron Doll, Rod Hermanson, Helen and Evan Summerfield, Don Schreier, Linda Bauer, Rick Brandau, Linda Finnigan, Bob Manson, Dawson Champlin

Calendar for September 23 – September 30

Thurs., Sept. 27	Quilting	9:00 AM
Sun., Sept. 30	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We extend our thanks to Alyssa Weaver for leading our worship this morning. Alyssa is from Tomah and a member of Peace Lutheran.

Raffle tickets are available from Nalani. We are always glad to accept additional items for the raffle. If you'd like to donate a raffle item, please leave it on the piano in the basement.

While the Sunday School children will probably put a good dent in packing the school kits during their hour on October 7th, there will still be packing and labeling for the adults after the pot-luck dinner. Please plan to attend.

We are in need of a volunteer to take the quilts and school kits to La Crosse on Saturday, October 13. The Lutheran World Relief box car will be available from 7:00 am – 11:00 am. Please see Nalani if you are able to volunteer.

In an emergency situation, please call Caitlyn Stanek @608-633-1824 or Dan Buchholz @608-435-6126 (H) or 608-487-6525 (C).

Prayer chain: Please call Nalani @608-387-2311

Church: wiltonchurch@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>

FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI