



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
August 29, 2021  
**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanliness 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 word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.*

*\*(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

**Announcements**

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God\**

*Prelude....A time for silent reflection*

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.  
God, our provider,

**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Gathering Hymn "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" (ELW #512) X2)

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**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

## Afghanistan Refugee Assistance

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse are the lead agency in providing information with regard to the needs of the refugees at Ft. McCoy. We will collect items each Sunday and deliver them to Ft. McCoy during the following week.

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" ( Luke 12:48 )

- Underwear (women & children)
- Socks (women & children)
- Sweatpants (men, women, & children)
- Prayer mats (can be yoga mats)
- Ponchos
- Clothespins
- Diapers
- Backpacks for Children
- Flashlights
- Baby onesies and sleepers

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever, To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Additional Contact Information:

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter schedule will begin on September 12 with 9:00 am Sunday School, followed by worship at 10:15 am.

A sign-up sheet for adult Bible study is located in the narthex. We will be studying Manna and Mercy by Daniel Erlander. The church will be providing the material, however, should you wish to have a personal copy, the cost will be \$10.00. Please indicate the same in the area specified on the sign-up sheet.

Pastor will notify Junior High students with the start date of Confirmation.

Sugar Creek's 'Quilt Auction & Fall Festival' will be held on Saturday, September 11. Please see the poster on the narthex bulletin board for more information.

We will be sending School Kits to Lutheran World Relief again this year. These kits are distributed throughout the world as well as here in the United States. The following is a list of items included in a kit:

- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of **blunt tipped** scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 ½" eraser

We generally transport the school kits in the LWR boxcar which will be in La Crosse this year on October 9. Please have items to the church by Sunday, October 3. Thank you for helping to make school a possibility, especially for those who would otherwise be refused without supplies.

P: 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.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C: Amen.**

**\*Canticle of Praise**

"This is the Feast"

ELW p. 149

**\*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.**

### Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.\**

### FIRST READING

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

**Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the

land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who  
fear the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their  
word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes  
against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

### Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.\*

\*Benediction

Sending Hymn "Take My Life, That I May Be" **ELW #583**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris; Organist; Nalani Bever; Reader: Carolyn Dougherty; Communion Server: Karen Arzt

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Judy Bever, Darlene and Paul Babbitt, Alrita Ornes, Tessa Klipstein, Jim Finer, Jerry Nading, Rhett Flaten, Bob Schendel, Richard Zitlow, Jeff DuCharme, Louie Voltz, Etta Mae Henze, Gary Von Ruden, Judy Nofsinger, Larry Voltz, David Berg, Sue Ann Degenhardt, Julie Schreier

### IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Robert Cale, Danelle Dougherty

### CALENDAR

Sun., Sept. 5	Worship	9:00 am
Sat., Sept. 11	Sugar Creek 'Quilt Auction & Fall Festival	8:00 am
Sun., Sept. 12	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am

## Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ\*

### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 152

### \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 153

### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

Distribution

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

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.154

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life,  
**we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.**  
**As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.**  
**In your name we pray.**  
**Amen.**

## SECOND READING

*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.*

### James 1:17-27

<sup>17</sup>Every 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. <sup>18</sup>In 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.

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

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

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

ELW p.151

**\*GOSPEL READING**

*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.*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

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

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

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

**ELW #186 (X2)**

**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**

*Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.*

Offertory Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,  
**you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.  
Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.  
Amen.**