

PRESIDER EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday
September 1, 2024 + 9:30 am
Authentic religion

Learn Live and Share God's Word

Jesus is the one who upholds God's law

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness 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." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been 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.

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

anonymous

At the sound of the bell please stand if you are able.

GATHERING DIALOG

A Blessed be God who calls us together.

C Praise be God who makes us one people.

A Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin.

C Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.

A Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed.

C Praise to God who is revealed as love.

A Blessed be God who alone has called us.

C We offer all that we are, and all that we shall become.

A Receive, O God, our sacrifice of thanks and praise.

C Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

GATHERING SONG

(hymn) ELW 818

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

- 1 O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.**
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.**
- 3 Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,**
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.**

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

GREETING AND GATHERING PRAYER

P Grace to you and peace from God our Creator,

the love at our beginning and without end,
in our midst and with us.

C God is with us, here we find new life.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

Word

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING

God's law: sign of a great nation

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

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 neither to add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also

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. ²You 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. ⁶You 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!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But 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.

Praise to Christ the Word.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICITE MINNESOTA (*Bless the Lord, Minnesota*)

Benedicite Minnesota based on the Benedicite Aotearoa in the New Zealand Prayerbook; both inspired by Psalm 148 and the Song of the Three in Daniel.

A O give thanks to our God who is good;

C whose love endures forever.

A Sun and moon and stars, lights of the northern sky:

C give to our God thanks and praise.

A Sunrise and sunset, day and night:

C give to our God thanks and praise.

A Hills and valleys, pine forests and grasslands,
glacial lakes, riverbanks and boundary waters,
shelter belts and tall-grass prairies,
headwaters and Superior:

C give to our God thanks and praise.

A Rivers and streams, bogs and moraines,
frost and ice, snow and rain,
ponds and lakes, laughing waters:

C give to our God thanks and praise.

A Maples and pines, cottonwood and dogwood, elm and ash,
corn and oats, wheat and soybeans,
wild rice and alfalfa, ragweed and thistle:

C give to our God thanks and praise.

A Walleye and sunfish, badger and deer, eagle and loon,
moose and elk:

C give to our God thanks and praise.

A Rabbits and cattle, mosquitoes and moths, cats and bears,
wolves and dogs, robins and bees,
sparrows and cardinals and squirrels,
sheep and pigs, owls and hawks:

C give to our God thanks and praise.

A All peoples immigrant and native, women and men,
who inhabit water bathed Minnesota:

C give to our God thanks and praise.

A All you saints and martyrs of the Prairies and North Woods:

C give to our God thanks and praise.

A O give thanks to our God who is good;

C whose love endures forever.

SECOND READING

Be doers of the word

James 1:17–27

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.

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. ¹⁸In 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.

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

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

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

Praise to Christ the Word.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 4; ELW page 151

The assembly stands and welcomes the gospel, singing:

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Authentic religion

Mark 7:1–8, 14–15

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.

The gospel according to Mark.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and 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.) ⁵So 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?” ⁶He 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;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

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

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ELW 512

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(Maori, New Zealand)*

A Let us together proclaim the faith that we share with
Christians around the world, using words of a Maori creed...

C You, O God, are supreme and holy,
You create our world and give us life,
your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved your love for us
in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again.

You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BLESSING OF MEANINGFUL WORK

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.

each petition concludes:

...Hear our prayer, O God of grace,

C Your mercy endures forever.

P Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you. Hear the prayers of your people.

**C Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

meal

PEACE

P Blessed be Christ the Prince of Peace,

C who breaks down the walls that divide.

P May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

C May the word of Christ dwell in us richly.

The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

"We Are an Offering"

D. Lyles

Presentation of the Gifts

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

**C Blessed are you, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

The assisting minister pours out the wine.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord is here.

C God's spirit is with us.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C it is right to give our thanks and praise.

P ...we give you thanks and sing: *setting 4, ELW p. 153*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1789)

P As Christ teaches, we pray:

**C 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.**

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Communion

"Lamb of God"

setting 4; ELW page 154

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have
mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

Most loving God, creator and redeemer,
we give you thanks for this foretaste of your glory.

C **Through Christ, and with all your saints,**
we offer ourselves and our lives to your service.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant,
our friend and brother. Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

P Be strengthened with the power of God, + the love of Christ,
and the help of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

(hymn) **ELW 583**

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

in English

Refrain

**Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

1 **Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. Refrain**

- 2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. Refrain
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee. Refrain
- 4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. Refrain

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adap.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875-1955

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

DISMISSAL

Please face the worship leaders for the dismissal.

A Go now to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

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Serving Today

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Linda Jones, *assisting minister*

Jill Davis, *reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*
 Myrna Flatland and Anna Matthes, *technology desk*
 Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*
 Rich Feist and Patrick Kutzer, *ushers*
 Doug Jones, *bus ministry*
 Cheryl and Rick Sundly, *coffee hosts*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given to the glory of God.
If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower-level following worship.

This service is being streamed live on the internet.

*The language of our worship this summer
 is based on language in the New Zealand Prayer Book.*

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Contact the coordinator below if you can help to accomplish these tasks:

OPPORTUNITY	COORDINATOR	DUE
Selling/donating used church equipment	Steve Panning	Autumn
Paint the childcare shed gables	Steve Panning	Autumn
Coffee hosts	Karen Moeller	Sign up downstairs
Salty Carmel hosts	Pastor C	Sign up in narthex

Welcome

Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

MT. CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

learn, live and share God's word

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