

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE: Fugue in C Major (Jig Fugue)

by Dietrich
Buxtehude*

Please stand

INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
[Silence] Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our +Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C **Amen.**

HYMN 759 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee “

(11:00 service—verses 1 and 4 only)

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at." Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery." So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of

the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

R: The Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go?

C: **You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to the ninth chapter of Mark.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

ANTHEM

[8:15, Chancel Choir]

"O Love, How Deep " by Gordon Young

[11am, Women's Chorale]

"Beautiful Savior" by F. Melius Christiansen

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

RECOMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN MISSION AND MINISTRY

P: Jesus said that he is the Vine, and we are the branches. Without him we can do nothing. Today as we recommit ourselves to mission and ministry in his name, we humbly ask God to keep us firmly rooted in the True Vine, that all we do together in this place will bring glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *[pause]*

P: Heavenly Father, in thanksgiving for the new life you give us in Christ,

C: We re-dedicate ourselves to the mission of your Church.

P: The time we have in this world, the talents we use, the worldly wealth and resources which sustain us: all of these are gifts flowing from your loving hand. Give us faith to continually offer these gifts back to you in praise and thanksgiving.

C: Loving Father, we re-commit ourselves to worship and service in Jesus' name.

P: May Almighty God give us the will, the strength, and the compassion to fulfill the commitments we have made this day, to serve him and shine the light of Christ in this community.

C: Amen.

OFFERING HYMN 514 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION (11:00 service)

Congregational Responses:

...after the confirmands have each affirmed the Baptismal Covenant:

P: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

...at the end of the Rite of Confirmation:

P: Let us rejoice with these sisters in Christ.

C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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 Him thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**

HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ is present in the wine and bread for forgiveness, life, and salvation are welcome to receive communion. Please indicate to the server if you would prefer to receive grape juice. All children and adults who prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion are welcome to come forward. Please indicate you would prefer to receive a blessing by keeping your hands folded.

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 836 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE: Joyful, Joyful

by Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. by Albin Whitworth

** The prelude is by German composer Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707). Buxtehude was a well-established organist and composer when J. S. Bach was still a young man. In fact, Bach walked over 260 miles to hear Buxtehude play and ended up studying with him for several months. The Jig Fugue is one of his most popular compositions for organ.*

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking
faith
home

Confess your sins and pray for one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 9:38-50	Avoiding sin
Monday	Numbers 11:4-29	Moses and the seventy elders
Tuesday	James 5:13-20	The power of prayer
Wednesday	Psalm 4	An evening prayer
Thursday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	Final instructions
Friday	Romans 8:18-27	Future glory for God's people
Saturday	Psalm 19:7-14	The wonders of God
Sunday	Mark 10:2-16	Jesus blesses the children

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. James 5:16 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of heaven and earth, guide us in our words and actions that we may sing your praises and love all those in our care. In Christ we pray, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, as you fill us with this meal, fill our hearts with a desire for your message of divine love and faithfulness. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the truth and beauty of God's word revive your soul and make you wise. (Psalm 19:7-11)



SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Send Me, Lord



taking
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What have you heard lately that filled you with joy?
- What have you heard recently that made you sad?
- In what ways can you communicate a message of healing, joy, and peace this week?

DEVOTIONS



Read: James 5:13-20.

James is concerned about speech. Speech that is not of God leads to division, chaos, hatred, and death. Speech that is of God brings peace, purity, and gentleness (James 3:16-18). It has been argued that talk and dialogue on social media has not helped humanity. There are times it has caused division, chaos, and hate rather than peace, purity, and gentleness. In James 5, prayer, confession, and songs of praise are listed as worthy ways to speak. James is concerned about the misuse of the human tongue and of human speech. James is also concerned that Christians live up to their calling and communicate God's healing, forgiveness, and peace to others. Let's join James in the Christian movement that seeks the good, the true, and the beautiful for all through faith in Christ. How can you use speech, written or oral, for the good of all and to give praise to God?

Pray: God of healing and peace, use our words so that truth, hope, and healing may reign through Christ Jesus. Amen.

SERVICE



Access to social media can make everyone feel important. Seeing our own words can make us feel powerful and influential. The Letter of James knows that words are powerful but not always helpful. How can you use a social media platform or other means to offer words of prayer, praise, a song, or a Bible verse to bless others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Mark 9:38-40, Jesus' disciples complain that someone was casting out demons in Jesus' name but was not following Jesus' disciples. Sadly, it has been the case throughout our history that people who follow Jesus in a way different "from us" are condemned. This week, take time to list Christian traditions that are different from yours. Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for their faith and witness in the world in the name of Jesus Christ.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

18th Sunday after Pentecost – September 26, 2021

“For the one who is not against us is for us.” (Mark 9:40)

Jesus is moving out into the world, doing good, preaching, teaching, healing, and exorcising demons as his disciples move with him. If they are going to follow Jesus, they have to follow him in doing good. If any of you have genuinely tried to do good, you know that doing good is not just a matter of good intentions. Not only are we called to serve others in need, but we are to do good work in Jesus’s name. And the disciples of Jesus find out it can be a challenge.

Jesus’ disciples come to him saying, “We saw this unknown guy casting out demons in your name, and we told him to stop because he wasn’t one of us.” And Jesus responded, “Do not stop him. Even if he is not part of our little group, he’s doing good, and that’s good enough for me.”

Sometimes we find our good work seems not to be good because it is so “small.” It is not “big” like demon possession where even unknown exorcists could help with such a big problem.

Jesus is not only concerned about the needs of those closest to him. He came to save the whole world. He is concerned not just with what’s troubling our hearts, but also with what’s troubling our world. When we work on the world’s problems, when we think big and tackle huge challenges, we are seeing Jesus’ larger picture.

There are some spectacular encounters with demons. Jesus shows that he understands the mysterious and powerful forces of evil. Jesus does not just minister to individuals and their personal needs; he engages and overcomes evil in whatever way it shows up.

Jesus also calls his followers to minister in less dramatic acts of mercy like a cup of cold water offered to a thirsty person, a considerate phone call, or a caring text sent to someone who is having a rough day. We are not to belittle these small acts of kindness when they are offered in the name of Jesus.

Some of us are good at working in large areas of ministry. Others of us have gifts for the smaller and more personal gestures. Whatever gifts Jesus has given you to help others, use them for his glory. Let us move out into the world in his name to do his work in the world. Amen.