

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024



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" (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.

The Lutheran Church of St. Mark

75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Phone: (860) 633-1188

Email: churchoffice@saintmarkglastonbury.org

WELCOME TO ALL WHO HAVE COME TO WORSHIP THE LORD TODAY!

Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.
We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.

Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.

**Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

*The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE based on *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*CONFESSION

We gather in the name of the Father, the †Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Kneel or sit.

Time for reflection and self-examination.

Eternal God our creator, **in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, the †Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*GATHERING HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth*

ELW 879

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

***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.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Come Let Us

- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name

ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
 "Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
 and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
 of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

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

FIRST READING

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 to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

A reading from Deuteronomy:

¹So 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.

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

PSALMODY

PSALM 15

*The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each **R**.*

Refrain



LORD, who may dwell in your tab - er - na - cle?

Tone



¹Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

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

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**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.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the
innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. R

SECOND READING

JAMES 1:17-27

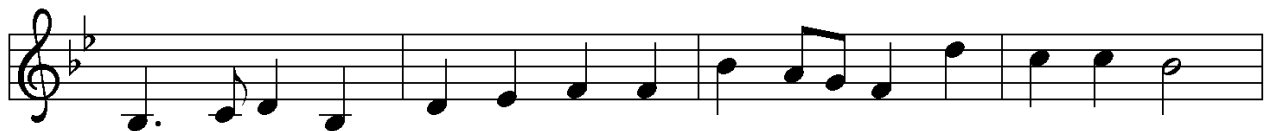
The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

A reading from James:

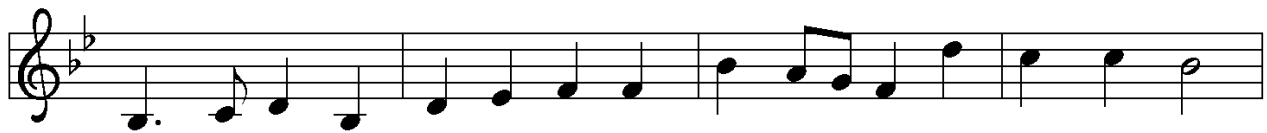
¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. 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.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*GOSPEL READING

MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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 Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], 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. ²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

HOMILY

1 Now that the day - light fills the sky,
 2 Would guard our hearts and tongues from strife;
 3 "All praise to you, cre - a - tor Lord!

we lift our hearts to God on high,
 from an - ger's din would shield our life;
 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Word!

that God, in all we do or say,
 from e - vil sights would turn our eyes,
 All praise to you, O Spir - it wise!"

would keep us free from harm to - day;
 and close our ears to van - i - ties.
 We sing as day - light fills the skies.

*APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess what we believe:

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 THE PEOPLE

The assisting minister prays the petition. The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy with: "hear our prayer." and those that end "O, God, we give you thanks" with: "Thanks be to God" The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "Amen."

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

O, God, we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

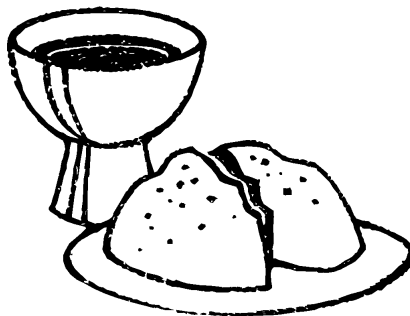
Into your hands... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

MEAL

*THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM



*SUNG OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and
fill to the brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a
har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the
bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

*THE 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

*PREFACE DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Eat This Bread

ELW 472

Refrain

Musical notation for the first system of 'Eat This Bread'. It consists of a treble and bass clef staff in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment.

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun-gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun-ger.

Musical notation for the second system of 'Eat This Bread'. It consists of a treble and bass clef staff in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com.
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PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

For those on zoom or not receiving the sacrament.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy.
Amen

*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you forever. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

Strengthen for Service, Lord

HFW 1148



- 1 Strength-en for ser - vice, Lord, the hands that ho - ly things have tak - en;
- 2 The tongues that sang your ho - ly name now purge of all de - cep - tion;
- 3 And may the feet that walked your courts be nev - er lured to wan - der;



and let the ears that heard your word to false-hood nev - er wak - en.
keep bright the eyes that saw your love and sharp-en their per-cep - tion.
but lead the faith - ful nour-ished here to jour - ney on in splen-dor.

Text: Syriac Liturgy of Malabar; tr. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, adapt.
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune

*DISMISSAL

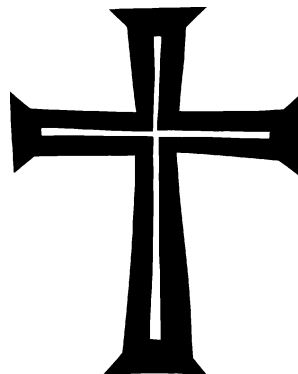
Go in peace. Love and serve your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Voluntary

WELCOME BACK, MARTIN!

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Pastor Hoffman
in honor of the members of Saint Mark.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please join us via Zoom for weekday prayer offices Tuesdays at 9:00am and Wednesdays at 7:00pm.
- The **Installation of Rev. Nathan D. Piph** as **Bishop of the NE Synod will be Saturday, September 7 at 1:00pm** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester, MA. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Hoffman.
- **St. Mark Members: Please join us for an important congregation gathering following worship next Sunday, September 8th.**
- Please join us for **Appreciation Sunday on September 15.**
- Join us for **Cuatro Puntos and Ameen Mokdad in concert at St. Mark on Thursday, September 19, 7:00pm. Sounds of the Silk Road.** Please register so we know how many people to expect: Ticket link: www.cuatropuntos.org or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sounds-of-the-silk-road-tickets-981646269417?aff=oddtcreator>
- **Save the date for our annual Joint Worship & Fellowship in JB Williams Park on Sunday, September 22.** Join members from St. Mark and from St. James' & St. Lukes' Episcopal churches for worship at **11:00am**, followed by a build-a-grinder luncheon. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex and bring a non-perishable item for the Glastonbury Food Pantry. Please note **that there will be no worship at St. Mark that day.**
- **The mowing team this week is Ron K and Al M.**

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, September 1	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Deb's Team
Monday, September 2	Labor Day – office closed	
Tuesday, September 3	9:00am 11:00am	Matins via Zoom Pericope & Pastors' Conference
Wednesday, September 4	7:00pm	Vespers via Zoom
Saturday, September 7	1:00pm	Installation of Bishop Piph
Sunday, September 8	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Congregation Gathering & Coffee Hour sponsored by Dottie's Team

*Cover Photo: Baptistry of St. Lydia, Greece by Pastor Cheryl Hoffman
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