

Be doers of
the **WORD**

JAMES 1:22



Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost
September 1, 2024
9:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Building Disciples - Growing in Faith
Serving in Christ's Name

The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor

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Welcome to all – especially visitors.

It is no accident that you are here today!

You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life. We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ! A special welcome to Zion members!

Large print and children's bulletins are available in the Narthex or from an usher.

Holy Communion: All God's Children are welcome to come to God's Table! It is at the Table we receive Christ's body and blood through the bread and wine. This holy meal renews and nourishes our spirit. Come and eat. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you.

The prefilled glasses are grape juice.

Please remember to write any prayer requests for today in the prayer book in the Narthex.



ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNITY TIME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #879 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

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.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 15 *(read responsively)*

¹Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**²Those 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 upon a neighbor.

**⁴In 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 against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

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.

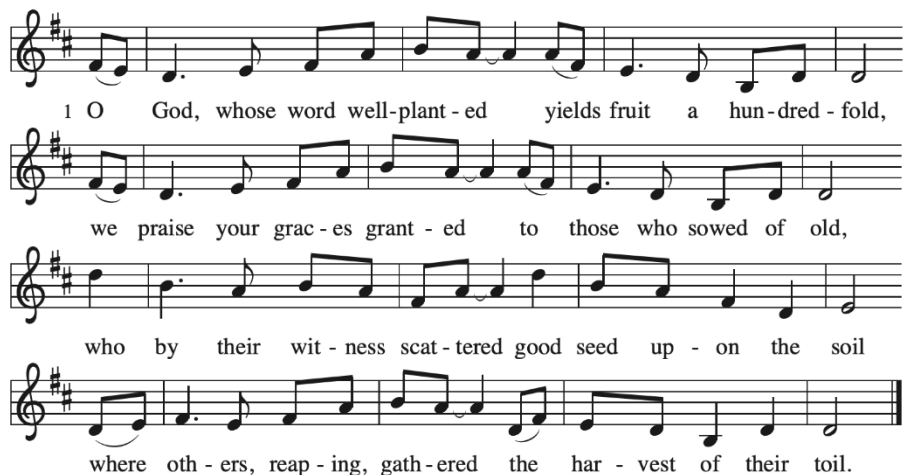
²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are comfortable to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION/GRADUAL HYMN



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: 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.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

YOUNG PEOPLE’S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Gwenn L. Trout

Please stand as you are comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #806 “O God, My Faithful God”

APOSTLES’ CREED

A: Together we profess the faith of the church.

C: 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

The assisting minister prays on behalf of the congregation.

A: Growing in the soil of the Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who seek the richness of life in God.

A brief silence.

A: God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Guide and sustain our seminaries, seminary students, and those discerning a call to ministry, and be with congregations in times of transition and turmoil. Gracious God,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe, and heal lands damaged or destroyed by recent natural disasters and human misuse. Gracious God,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new; wealthy and impoverished; diverse and multi-cultural. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions, quell violence when it erupts, and bring peace and reconciliation in areas torn apart by war, injustice and insurrection. Gracious God,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Renewing God, as clay takes shape under the hands of the potter, may your hands shape the construction of Mbeya Hospital of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania. May the construction of this hospital remain rooted in your guidance. Like the potter who spins, pushes, and pulls the clay, may the builders and engineers be led by your wisdom. Gracious God,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Guide and strengthen health care workers, therapists, caregivers and first responders. Bring healing and wholeness to those who are ill in body, mind or spirit, especially Ann G., Cindy, Kody, Jay, Bill, Elizabeth, Dottie, Jerry, Doug, Jordan, Christian, Marge, Jerry, Terrie, Naoma, Boden, Andy D., Andrea G., Earl, Zelda C., Doris, Stew, Jim, Sherry, Judy B., Linda, John, Marcia, Barbara H., Stew H., Richard, Matt, Alice, Larry, Frances, Arlan, Shirley, Richard Z., and those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. (pause) God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions, and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive and earn a living wage. Gracious God,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Hear us as we pray, living God, and nourish us always at your table of grace, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with your neighbors, then remain standing as you are comfortable.

OFFERTORY HYMN ELW #184 "Let the Vineyards"



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 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: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

After the table is set by the presiding minister, the assisting minister leads the prayer.

A: Let us pray.

C: Generous God, we thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us daily. Make us aware of each blessing that comes our way, and create in us the constant desire to be blessings for others. Bless what we bring before you, we pray. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.

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 our thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, in every time and place you have been our refuge. In the beginning, your Spirit hovered over the deep on mighty wings, stirring the waters, churning up light, and land, and life. Throughout the ages, you carried your people to yourself, freeing us from slavery, calling us precious, treasured, holy. But time and again, we turned from you, refusing to be gathered under your motherly wings. And so in the proper time, you sent your own Son, Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering our Savior's commandment, and that his life, death, and resurrection came to pass to bring us and all creation to new birth, we trust in the hope we cannot see as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Pour out your Spirit upon us, O God, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Hover over your Church again, and shape us anew in your image, for you are our Mighty Father, Incarnate Son, Living Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Prepared by The Rev. Victoria Larson for the 2017 Synod Assembly. Used by permission.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

C: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

As the table is prepared the congregation sings:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Please come forward to receive communion at the direction of the ushers, organ side first, and return by the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW #675 "O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True"

When all have communed, please stand as you are comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: As the Father has loved you, go now and love.

As the Son has forgiven and redeemed you, go now, extending grace to all you meet.

As the Spirit has transformed you into the likeness of the Son, go now, letting the life of Christ guide you each moment of the day.

Go now, in the ✝ Triune name of God.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #685 "Take My Life, That I May Be"

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister send the congregation into mission.

A: Go in peace. Live the gospel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Please place your offering in the collection plates near the doors. Your ongoing financial support to our congregations is vital in our ongoing ministries and to cover monthly expenses.

About today's lessons: *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.*

Join us today for Adult Sunday School! Following worship, the adult class continues their series, "Finding God" utilizing the television series *Joan of Arcadia*. This series concludes on September 15 (no Sunday School next week). Come join us in the large Sunday School room.

Thank you to those assisting with worship

Assisting Minister: Steve Casella

Lector: Emily Bowers

Musician: Denise Casella

Ushers: Mike Stoner & Mike Peck

Counters: Nick Cekovich & Steve Casella

Altar Guild: Deb Stoner

Building Lock-up: Nick Cekovich

Technology: Nick Cekovich / Doug Bowers

	Sept 8 Outdoor Rally Day	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29	Oct 6
Asst. Min.	John F.	Nick C.	Steve C.	Debbie L.	Steve C.
Lector	Seana M.	Phyllis A.	Denise C.	Steve H.	Denise C.
Musician	Denise C.	Deb R.	Denise C.	Denise C.	Denise C.
Ushers	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Drew K. Mike S.
Counters	Nick C. Trudy G.	Nick C. MaryJane	Nick C. Steve C.	Nick C. Heather V.	Heather V. Steve C.
Altar s/u	Sherry R.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.
Altar c/u	Sherry R.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.
Lock-up	Nick C.	Nick C.	Nick C.	Nick C.	Heather V.
Tech	Nick C. / Doug B.				

Upcoming

Today: Project A.S.K fundraiser at Wertzville Diner (see info below)

Sept. 8: Rally Day (school kit assembling & picnic) – Please sign up to bring brunch items for the picnic!

Sept. 11: Wine & Cheese potluck picnic, 6:00 pm

Sept. 12: Council meeting, 6:30 pm

Sept. 18: Wine & Cheese Wednesday, 7:00 pm;

Jerry Mitchell, PA Attorney General's Office, *How can we protect ourselves from fraud and abuse?*

Sept. 24: Property Committee Meeting, 7pm

Oct. 9: Christian Education/Social Ministries meeting, 7pm via Zoom (please let Wendy know if you are interested in attending)

Oct. 10: Council meeting, 6:30 pm

Looking Ahead – mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14, 11am-1pm, for our second annual Cookie Walk & Soup Sale!

God's Work, Our Hands - We will begin the day (September 8) with worship in the pavilion at 9:00 am. Then, join us in fellowship hall to help assemble school kits (thank you for all of your donations!). Finally, join us in the pavilion for a brunch picnic. Sausages on rolls will be provided, and we ask you to sign up to bring other brunch items. We look forward to seeing you there!
-The Christian Education and Social Ministry Committees

Trunk or Treat - Saturday, October 26, 2024, 5:30 – 7:00pm. There are many ways to be involved! Donate candy, prizes, or money to purchase these items; come at 3:30 to help set up/decorate; bring your car & candy; help with games or traffic flow; assist with clean-up/tear-down. Being held rain or shine!

Address Update: Ann Gilbert has moved to: Legend at Silver Creek, 425 Lambs Gap Road, Apt. 124, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. She no longer has a house phone. Her cell phone number is in the directory.

Project A.S.K. is hosting a fundraiser at Wertzville Diner TODAY! Go enjoy a meal and support students experiencing homelessness at the same time! Be sure to pick up a flyer in the Sunday school room to give to your server.



Scan the QR code with your phone (using the camera or download a QR reader app) to make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations from your bank account, debit card, or credit card.

The Rev. Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor
Cell: 717.602.9913; pastorgwenn@verizon.net
Ann Gottlieb, Office Manager: 717.697.9675
Office Hours: T/Th 9am-3pm

Congregation Council

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Keith Gilbert, Vice President	717.756-4313
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