

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

(Pastor) Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the creator of wind and rain, field and ocean, the bread of life coming down from above, the power at work within us and this world.

(People) Amen.

Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin. God and Father of all,

We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, + you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Let the Whole Creation Cry”

Hymn No. 876

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

(Together) **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

Teaching Moment

Children’s Sermon

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ You have seen for yourselves what the LORD did with regard to the Baal of Peor—how the LORD your God destroyed from among you

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everyone who followed the Baal of Peor, ⁴ while those of you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today. ⁵ See, just as the LORD my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. ⁶ 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!” ⁷ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸ And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? ⁹ 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.

After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Reading Responsively– Psalm 15 (Lector and People)

¹ LORD, 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;

³ **they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon 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.

⁵ 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.

Second Lesson

James 1:17-27

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹ 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. ²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect

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law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.²⁷ 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.

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia,
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

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

(Spoken after the announcement) **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus],² they 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;⁴ 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.)⁵ 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?”⁶ 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;⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand:¹⁵ there 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,²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

(Spoken after the reading) **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Christine Thomas-Echelbarger

Hymn of the Day

“Take My Life”

Hymn No. 685

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

(After each petition:) Lord, in your mercy, ... **hear our prayer.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R/ And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Special Music

Peck/Fendrick (8:30 a.m.)

Offering Prayer

(Together) **God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, mighty, merciful Lord... Be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Traditional, Page 191

Right Hand Column

Invitation

Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." All are welcome.

Lamb of God

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Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray.

Distribution Hymns

“Eat This Bread”
“We are an Offering”

Hymn No. 472, repeated
Hymn No. 692

Blessing

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

R/ Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor and call others to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

Almighty and merciful God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve, and keep you
this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Here I am, Lord”

Hymn No. 574

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

R/ Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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.