
Worship & Holy Communion
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 1, 2024 9:30 a.m.



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.

In God's Service

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jane Harris
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Joe Chodur
Reader:	Deb Stockberger
Ushers	Ian & Kristen Stockberger

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have special prayer requests, you would like included in the Prayers of the Church, please write them on a purple slip from the table by the offering plate in the Narthex. The prayers will be brought forward during the Offertory.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

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.

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.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

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.



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
 Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Amen

The assembly is seated.

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

God's law: a sign of a great nation

Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

James 1:17-27

Be doers of the word, not hearers only

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

Authentic religion

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.

PSALM: (Please 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.

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 *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Mark

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.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

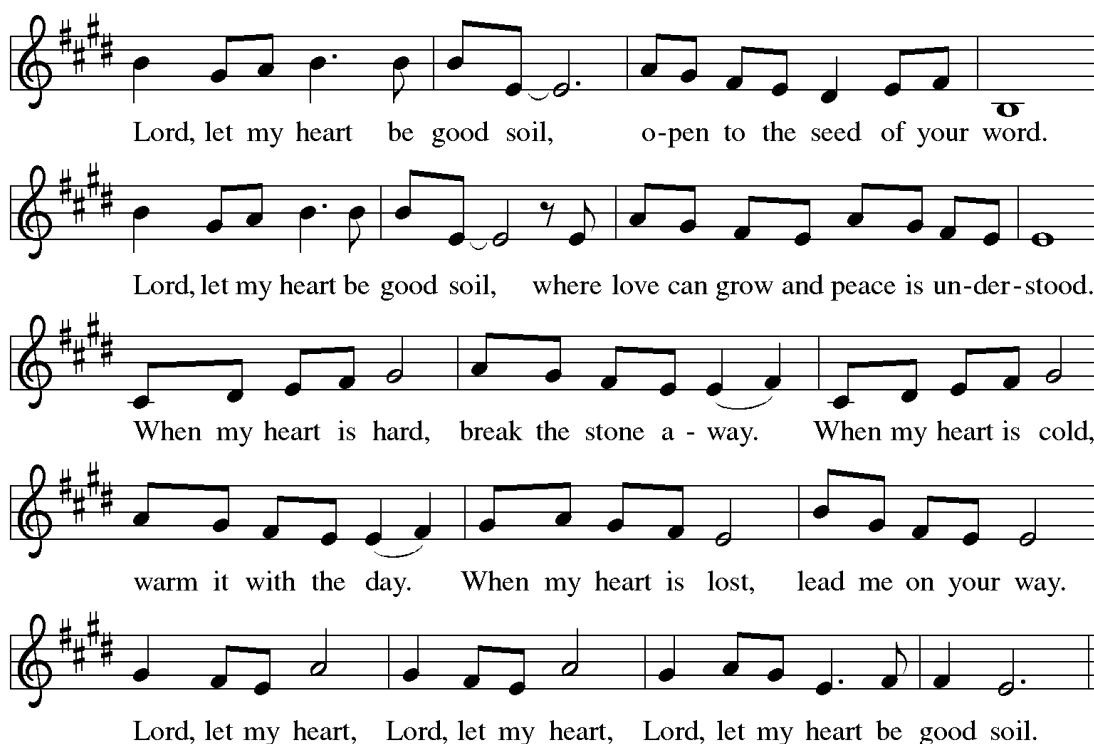
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Sing thru twice



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. 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

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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CREED

**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 (*PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY*)

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging.

C: Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ.

P: God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness.

C: 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.

P: Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new.

C: Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways.

P: 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.

C: Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts

P: On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world.

C: Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive.

P: Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed.

C: We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ.

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

OFFERING

The assembly stands

OFFERTORY

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

Vs 1

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. **By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Each side will be ushered forward down the center aisle. Those on the pulpit side will kneel at the communion rail at the front and fill into the back. Those on the lector side will kneel at the communion rail at the back and fill in to the front. Pastor will distribute the elements from the pulpit front and around the back. Communion is continual. Return your cups to the trays by the pews.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table.
(The assembly is seated)

COMMUNION MUSIC

Accompanist Choice

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

Amen.

BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Restore in Us, O God

ELW 328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Calendar

This Week:

Sunday, Sept. 1

9:30 am Worship/Communion @ SP

10:30 am Fellowship

Monday, Sept. 2

Labor Day, offices closed, no quilting

Wednesday, Sept. 4

9:30 am M & M's/WELCA SP

2:00 pm Anniversary Planning OS

5:00 pm Ring His Praises Bell Choir

Practice SP

Friday, Sept. 6

9:00 am Community Kitchen OS

Next Week:

Sunday, Sept. 8

9:30 am Gospel Service @ OS

10:30 am Fellowship

2:00 pm 2/4 Stitchers SP

Monday, Sept. 9

9:00 am Quilters OS

9:30 am Quilters SP

Tuesday, Sept. 10

Noon Worship Planning SP

5:15 pm Council Meeting SP

7:00 pm Council Meeting OS

Wednesday, Sept. 11

9:30 am M&M's SP

5:00 pm Ring His Praises Bell Choir

Practice SP

Announcements

The flowers on the altar today are in honor of the members of the Altar Guild who set up communion each Sunday, put out the flowers, and keep our altar area clean.

For the members of St Paul – if you would like to donate flowers for worship like the person that bought flowers in honor of the Atar Guild it is really very easy. All you need to do is call our Church Secretary Valerie (641-423-7749) and let her know which **month** you would like to place flowers. She will take care of the details of ordering and delivery. The cost is \$40 which covers an entire month. Checks should be made payable to St Paul Lutheran Church and put a note in the memo line “flowers”. If you would like to donate in memory or honor of a specific occasion or person let Valerie know and it will be printed in the bulletin. Thank you for your consideration to provide flowers for Sunday worship!

The following message is for all members of both churches. We often post pictures of our events on each church’s Facebook page. If you prefer your picture, not be posted please let Pastor Jane, Marilyn Martell or Diane Murphy know. We understand that not everyone wants their picture posted and we would like to be respectful of your preferences. Thank you.

Please be sure to sign **friendship registers** located at end of pews.

Reminder: the deadline for turning in announcements for the bulletin is Wednesday by 10 a.m.

Thank you to all who delivered Meals on Wheels from Our Saviour's last week. We appreciate you!

On September 8th, we will have our annual **Gospel Sunday** with the Chitans. Between the 9:30 service and the 3:00 concert, we will have a potato bar meal at 11 a.m.. The potatoes will come from Kittleson Bros, the chopped onions from the Rachuts (big surprise) and the cheese from Homestead Dairy of Waukon, IA. We will have a sign up sheet for those that would like to bring extra toppings for the potatoes, a vegetable, salad, drink or dessert to share. Members of the Seventh Day Adventist Church will be our special guests. Thank you for your support.

Once again this year there will be a **Bible Reading Marathon** in Central Park. Scheduled to begin Wednesday, September 18 (9 a.m. to 10 p.m.) and end Saturday, September 21 between 4-6 p.m. If you or a group of people would like to schedule a time to read please contact Karen Campbell at 641-430-9041. You only need to read for 15 minutes at a time. What a great way to share the Word!

Planning for Our Saviour's 100th Anniversary Celebration is beginning! The planning committee will meet at Our Saviour's on Wednesday, September 4, at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Committee members please bring your calendars for planning purposes. If you are not yet a part of this committee but would like to be, please plan to attend this meeting as well. Thank you!

Northeast Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Fall Field Trip

Who: All women are invited, but you must RSVP to Chris VanDeventer at cdvandeven@gmail.com or phone 515-320-2877 by October 14th.

What: The Fall Field Trip includes tours of the Grotto of the Redemption at West Bend, lunch at the Wagon Wheel in West Bend, and tours of the P.O.W. Museum in Algona and the Algona P.O.W. Nativity Scene.

Cost: \$5.00 for the POW Museum; the other two are fee-will donations;

lunch on your own. **When:** Saturday, October 19, all day.

Where: Car pools will meet at 'hubs' and travel to West Bend for the first tour at 10:00 am, lunch at 11:15, and the Algona tours in the afternoon. Our hub is at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church parking lot; we'll leave there by 8:15 a.m.

Why: Have fun and fellowship with other Christian women! It's a celebration!

You are Invited to "**Leaf-ing into the Divine**" Saturday, October 5, 9 am – 4 pm, Westminster Presbyterian, Waterloo. **Would you like to grow** – In love, joy and peace? In patience, kindness and generosity? In gentleness, faithfulness and even self-control? In your capacity for compassion with justice for others? "**Leaf-ing into the Divine**" may connect to your desire to grow, with opportunities for Quiet Prayer in the Presence; Walking in the natural world or in the sanctuary; Yoga with Journaling, and/or Tai Chi; Quiet Reading of Scripture; and other options. Register by **email** to cone Iowa@gmail.com, with name and phone, on or before Monday, October 1.

If you feel drawn to kneel during the service, please feel free to lower the kneelers and use them.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. **Please help where you can.**

Contact information for Pastor Jane: phone number is 641-242-0337 and her email address is janeharris2010@gmail.com if anyone in our church family wanted to contact her.