

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 - 10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## *Introduction*

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

## *Last-place Finish*

Top-ten lists, sports rankings, grade point averages: it is human nature to want to measure ourselves against others. People love competition. At its best, it can motivate us to reach new heights. However, it can also bring out our worst instincts.

Jesus understood this when he caught his disciples debating their own standing. By placing a child in their midst, he overturned their expectations. In Jesus' time, children were very low in the social order. His act was meant as a shocking reminder that in the kingdom of God, to be the greatest means to take last place behind the forgotten, the outcast, and people the world rejects.

Who are such people in our world today? How might we reach out to them and invite them into the center of our own circle? This can sometimes be difficult or unpleasant because it means putting ourselves in the back-ground and forces us to confront difficult truths about our world and our own hearts.

Of course, in the grand scheme of things, none of us is worthy to be in the middle of the circle. We are all flawed and broken. But Jesus welcomes us anyway. He takes all of us into his arms and declares us worthy. We do not need to measure up to receive God's love. Because of this, we are set free to love and serve others, especially the marginalized and the vulnerable, humbly putting others first and seeking to meet their needs.

Whenever we gather for worship, it is a sign that God's love is not a competition. We are all bathed in the waters of baptism. We all gather in a place of honor to be fed at God's table. Returning again and again to God's promises, we find our place at the center, with and among all God's beloved children.

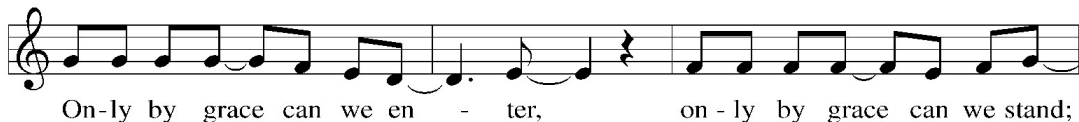
# GATHERING

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pr. Larry Donner*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Only by Grace Can We Enter*



On-ly by grace can we en - ter, on - ly by grace can we stand;



not by our hu - man en - deav - or,



but by the blood of the Lamb. In - to your pres - ence you call



us, you call us to come.



In - to your pres - ence you draw us, and now by your grace we come,



now by your grace we come. *Fine*



Lord, if you mark our trans - gres - sions, who would



stand? Thanks to your grace we are cleansed



by the blood of the Lamb. *D.C. al fine*

## OPENING LITANY

Gather us in, the brokenhearted and the joyful.

**Gather us in, the weak and the strong.**

Gather us in, the fearful and the brave.

**Gather us in, the young and the old.**

Gather us in, to sing of God's works.

**Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ.**

Gather us in, to worship and wonder.

**Gather us in, to know of God's love.**

## \*\* GATHERING SONGS

*Gather Us In*



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.



### *Everyday*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

What to say, Lord?  
It's you who gave me life,  
And I can't explain  
Just how much you mean to me  
Now that you have saved me, Lord.  
I give all that I am to you,  
That everyday I can  
Be a light that shines your name.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Everyday, Lord,  
I'll learn to stand upon your Word,  
And I pray that I,  
I may come to know you more,  
That you would guide me  
In every single step I take,  
That everyday I can be your  
Light unto the world.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.**

**(Verse 2 - All)**

**Everyday, Lord,  
I'll learn to stand upon your Word,  
And I pray that I,  
I may come to know you more,  
That you would guide me  
In every single step I take,  
That everyday I can be your  
Light unto the world.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.**

**Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.**

**(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)**

**It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday.**

**It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday.**

**It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday.**

**It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday,  
It's you I live for everyday.**

**(Final Refrain - All / Music Ministers)**

**Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you, my Lord.**

**Everyday, it's you I'll live for.  
Everyday, I'll follow after you.  
Everyday, I'll walk with you -**

Solo:  
It's you I live for everyday.



*Will you Let Me Be Your Servant?*

(Verse 1)

Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.

(Verse 2)

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
we are trav'lers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

(Verse 3)

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

(Verse 4)

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

(Verse 5)

Will you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.

(return to outline)

## **CONFESSION**

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

**Where we need healing, make us whole!**

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

**Where we are isolated and excluded, bring us near!**

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

**Where we are chained, break our bonds!**

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

**Where we are dying, bring us back to life!**

## **FORGIVENESS**

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Assistant Minister*

O God, our teacher and guide, **you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**



# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## FIRST READING

**Jeremiah 11:18-20**

*Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**Psalms 54**

*God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)*

Save me, O God, by your name;  
in your might, defend my cause.

**Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have | sought my life,  
those who have no regard for God.

**Behold, God is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

Render evil to those who spy on me;  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

## SECOND READING

James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

A reading from the book of James.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*\* GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

## YOUTH MESSAGE

### MESSAGE

*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

#### \*\* APOSTLES' 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
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 COMMUNITY

#### GATHERING OF GIFTS

#### OFFERTORY

#### OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples 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."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another .

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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**

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

## **COMMUNION** - *Receiving the Lord's Tangible Presence*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond **Amen**.*

**Communion Statement** ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

*NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request. For those choosing to remain in the pews, there are communion all-in-one cups containing grape juice available in the Narthex.*

## **REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and reflect the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.*

## **\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

# SENDING

## \*\* BLESSING

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

## \*\* SENDING HYMN

*This Is Amazing Grace*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,  
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

(Refrain - All)

**This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,  
That you would take my place,  
That you would bear my cross,  
You laid down your life  
That I would be set free.  
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me,  
All that you've done for me.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**Who brings our chaos back into order,  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

(Verse 4 - All)

**Who rules the nations with truth and justice,  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

(Refrain - All)

**This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,  
That you would take my place,  
That you would bear my cross,  
You laid down your life  
That I would be set free.  
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.**

(Music Ministers)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain:  
Worthy, worthy, worthy! Oh!

(Refrain - All)

**This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,  
That you would take my place,  
That you would bear my cross,  
You laid down your life  
That I would be set free.**  
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me,  
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

*Assistant Minister*

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.  
Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two  
Make a commitment to not only worship each week  
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation  
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Michael and All Angels Sunday, September 29, 2024**

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word “angel” means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

### **Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420 Monday, September 30, 2024**

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22920.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.