

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 22, 2024

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION p. 117

HYMN #803 ELW "When I Survey"
INSERT "La Cruz Excelsa al Contemplar"

KYRIE

HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast" p. 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY - 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.**

FIRST LESSON JEREMIAH 11:18-20

PSALM 54

SECOND LESSON JAMES 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

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

THE GOSPEL MARK 9:30-37

REFLECTION: Jesus speaks of servanthood, of becoming last and servant of all. The disciples may be blind with guilt, but we observe the teaching clearly, reinforced by our memory of Jesus' basin and towel on the night before his death. In taking the child, Jesus incarnates his teaching. Jesus lays aside his own status in reaching out to a child, a symbol of the marginalized within any community. In his reception of the child, Jesus models the openness, vulnerability and humility to which we are invited.

Stephen M. Larson, Homilies for the Christian People

HYMN #641 ELW "All are Welcome"
INSERT "Todos Bienvenidos Son"

APOSTLES' CREED p. 127

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you shape the world so there is enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer (*especially*). Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see how you are calling us to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and show us the way to eternal life in you.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING of the PEACE

OFFERING *Allelu, Allelu, Allelu Gracias Senor*

HOLY COMMUNION with LORD'S PRAYER p. 129

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

The flowers on the altar are presented by Pastor Linda and Pastor Dennis in honor of their anniversary and in celebration of Daniel and Courtney's upcoming marriage.

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

SUNDAY 10:00 a.m. Worship
WEDNESDAY 8:00 p.m. AA

Let us pray for...

Kurt Kusserow, **Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod**
Peter Asplin, Melissa Stoller, **Assistants to the Bishop**
Elizabeth Eaton, **Presiding Bishop, ELCA**
Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, **President, Lutheran World Federation**
President Modeste, **Tulear Synod, Malagasy Lutheran Church**

HEALING & SPECIAL NEEDS: George & Debbie K., asylum seekers especially children, Rachel F., Pr. Norm M., Peggy E., Marilyn & Brian H., Rose & Chip, Rita, Pres. Carter, Judy H., Kirk D., Mason M., Noah, Luca, Karen M., Len & Carole, Roni, Karin, Tommy C., Karen S., Fernando W., Darlene & Al, Lana, Dayton, Jeffery, Don W., Mindy, Marylene, Nancy S., Nancy, Aligha, Palonis family, Ron R., Zach F., Katie, Ed, Stephanie, Tyler C., & all with flu, RSV, COVID and unknown illnesses.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY: Jim Headley.

NURSING HOME / ASSISTED LIVING: Mary Jane Freund (Concordia Ridgewood-Plum); Shirley & Jack Pickens (William Penn Center); Roni Mayhood (Merakey); Esther Schwab (Beatty Point) June Minnear (Beatty Point Village); Evelyn Rae Dodson (Harmarville Village); Georgetta Colton (Seneca Place).

CAREGIVERS: Annie T., Judy M., Chris, Chip, Rebecca, Darlene.

HOUSING NEEDS: Leilani.

EMPLOYMENT: Derrick, Yinke, Yelisbeth, Cassie, Tyler, Jose.

COUNTRY OF THE MONTH: Panama

MISSION PARTNER: Holy Trinity - East Pittsburgh

CHURCH OF THE MONTH: Zion Penn Hills

LUTHERAN AGENCY: Lutheran Campus Ministry

SCHOOL OF THE MONTH: Beechwood Elementary

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.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But 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!"

²⁰But 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.

Psalm: Psalm 54

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

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For 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.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But 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. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You 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. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for 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." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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