

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

September 19th, 2021

11:00 a.m. Service

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

The First Must Be Last

Introduction for the Day: 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 a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Sheila Rawn

Temple Talk

Outreach for Hope, Emily Wanezek

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

God calls us to worship him as little children.

God is good; God is great!

Response

#643 We Are All One in Christ

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, and do not fear."

"Here is your God who will come to save."

Who is the greatest among us? Today the Lord who suffered for us calls us to humility.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

O God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift,
we confess that we are imperfect. Our minds are often filled with prejudice, and we do not welcome the stranger. We have sinned against you and against one another in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins that we may follow where you lead, and fill us with perfect goodness, that we may live as your Spirit directs us, filled with all the fullness of God.

The Spirit testifies that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. For sake of Jesus Christ who died on the cross and rose triumphant from the grave, God forgives your sins.

May we live for you with the humility, innocence, and joy of a child. Amen.

Gathering Song

God, You Call Us to This Place



1. God, you call us to this place, where we know your love and grace.
2. Now as-sembled in Christ's name, all your mer-cies to pro-claim:
3. In the wa-ter we were born of the Spir-it in the Son.



Here your hos-pi-ta-li-ty makes of us one fam-i-ly,
 in the hear-ing of your word, in the gos-pel of the Lord,
 Now a priest-ly, roy-al race rich in ev-'ry gift of grace:



makes our rich-di-ver-si-ty rich-er still in un-i-ty,
 in the break-ing of the bread, in the meal where we are fed:
 called, for-giv-en, loved, and freed, for the world we in-ter-cede:



makes our man-y voic-es one, joined in praise with Christ your Son.
 in the Spir-it let us be one in faith and un-i-ty.
 gath-er in-to un-i-ty all the hu-man fam-i-ly.

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Litany for “*The First must be Last*” Sunday

How great is the love that we should be called children of God.

God the Creator, we thank you this day for making us your children through water and the Word!

God the Son, you welcomed children into your midst.

May we invite all to become our family in the faith.

O Servant Savior, day after day you set before us opportunities to serve.

Help us to keep serving you, by making the most of the opportunities you give us.

O Servant Savior, you willingly welcomed us into your circle of servanthood.

Help us to keep serving you and encouraging others to join us in our service.

Apostolic 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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.

Word

(Please be seated)

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 54

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

Let us read responsively and sing from Psalm 54.

The organ will intone the refrain, then the congregation is asked to sing.

God is my help - er; it is the Lord who sus - tains my life.

Text: Psalm 54:4 Music: John R. Paradowski. Copyright. © 2021. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.

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. Refrain.

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.

Refrain.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

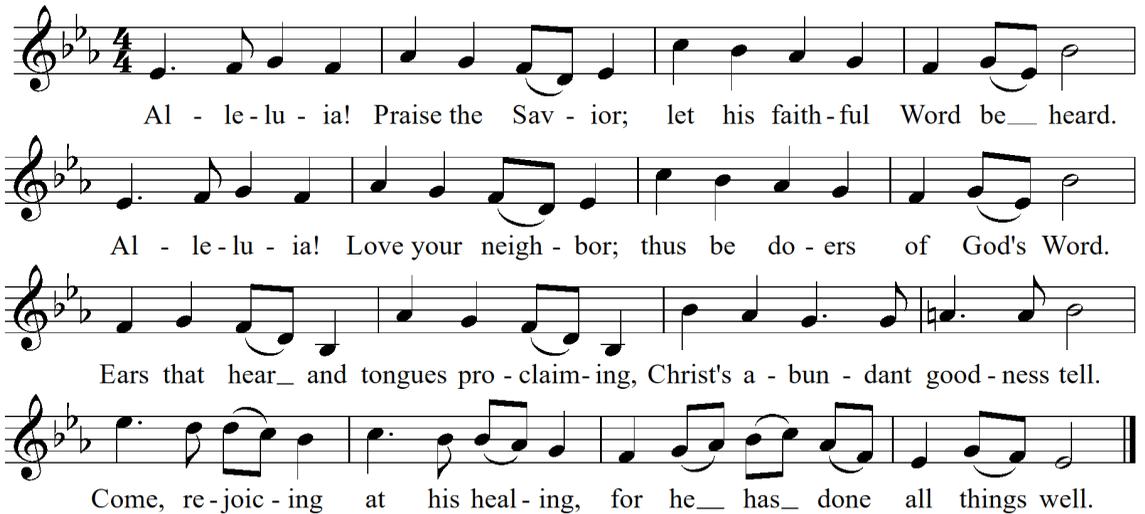
The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Praise the Savior


Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Sav - ior; let his faith - ful Word be heard.

Al - le - lu - ia! Love your neigh - bor; thus be do - ers of God's Word.

Ears that hear_ and tongues pro - claim - ing, Christ's a - bun - dant good - ness tell.

Come, re - joic - ing at his heal - ing, for he_ has_ done all things well.

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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 the 9th chapter.

Glory to You O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Sheila Rawn

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#595 Jesus Loves Me!

(Prayer Cards will be collected during the hymn of the day)

Profession of Faith

The 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 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in
need.

... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

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The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Arr. by Mark Hayes, John Paradowski, Piano

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory Response

#183 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. O God, you have shown us the way to your very heart, "Whoever wants to
be first must be last of all and servant of all." Accept these gifts, offered in
deepest humility. May they be used in your service. Through Jesus Christ our
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.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Jesus, you who were first God's only begotten Son became last, and the servant of all.

Nourish us in this meal for lives of service.

The table is ready. All who hunger and thirst, come.

(Please be seated)

Please take your belongings with you to communion.

Communion Hymn

#496 One Bread, One Body

Please meditate on the hymn text.

Refrain:

One bread, one body, one Lord of all; one cup of blessing which we bless, and we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

*1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. **Refrain***

*2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. **Refrain***

*3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all. **Refrain***

