

First Lutheran Church
300 West Third Street
Prophetstown, IL



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 29, 2021

Order of Worship
Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Setting Ten

Introduction to the Day: 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.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*** Congregation rises in body and/or spirit**

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn:**

"Gather Us In"

532

Please be seated.

Canticle of Praise pg. 204

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth: we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand. Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Word

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

Reading: James 1:17-27

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.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thank be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark the seventh chapter.

C: 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."

²¹For 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.

C: Praise to you, O Christ. *Please be seated.*

Sermon:

Pastor Chelsey Weech

Please rise.

***Hymn of the Day:**

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"

512

*** The Apostles' Creed**

P: Let us join together in the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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.

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

First Lutheran Announcements

Updating Youth Room: We are updating the middle school room upstairs with new seating and we need your help! We are looking for one, the year 2000 or newer, couch, sectional or love seat. Please contact the church office or Christa Robshaw, 309-945-5617 if you have one to donate to our youth. We will make arrangements to pick it up and get it to the church for you.

Special Offering: Since we have a large middle school class this year we need more spots for the youth. What a great problem to have! We are collecting a special offering to purchase bean bag chairs and papasan (rounded bowl shape) chairs for our new and improved classroom upstairs. Please specify on your offering envelope “special youth offering” for your donation now through Labor Day.

Worship at Eclipse Square: On Sunday, September 12th our worship service will be held at Eclipse Square beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please bring your own lawn chairs for the service. Following worship we will have a potluck picnic. Everyone is welcome!
Note: If the weather does not cooperate for our outside service at Eclipse Square, the service will be conducted at church at 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Pads are in the pews. Please pass to those sharing the pew for our attendance taking.

Special Community Offerings: For the summer we are collecting for different agencies in town and FLC will match up to \$1,000 for each. Today is the last day for the August’s FLC collection for Eclipse Square. Starting next week for the month of September FLC is collecting for Winning Wheels, Activities Department. Please make your check out to First Lutheran Church and we will send one check each month to the respective agencies.

CDC Guidelines are still being followed. We advise you to social distance, but masks are encouraged.

Assisting In Our Worship

Pianist: Susan Gillespie

Cantor: Randy Roland

Reader: Ken Cocking

Stewardship Record Last Week

Sunday Attendance - 82

Offering:

General Fund . . \$1,103.00

Youth-Chairs 270.00

World Hunger 19.00

Eclipse Square 125.00

Lutheran Disaster–Wildfires \$ 143.00

FLC Contact Information

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