

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 19th, 2021



9:15am - Hybrid Worship

**Lutheran Church of the Living Christ**

*These texts highlight the contrasts between the sustainability of God's goodness versus the decaying nature of that which opposes God. 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 child. When we welcome a child of God, we exercise radical hospitality and welcome. We are called to make room for them, giving them a place of honor in the assembly just as they are.*

**Notes about our worship service:** Guidance and extra information is printed in *italics* throughout the bulletin. "P" indicates the speaking part of the presiding minister; "L" indicates a speaking part of a lay leader; "C" and parts in boldface indicate speaking parts of the whole congregation.

Worshipping in this time continues to be impacted by the Delta variant. As such, the following precautions remain in place: Masking is required. You will drop off your offering and pick up prepackaged communion supplies and bulletins on your way in. You may choose to sit where you like (no capacity limitations). Sharing of communion and peace will remain distanced. We will sing only the last song of the service. Finally, please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

**PRELUDE:** *"A Lamp Unto My Feet"* Franklin Ritter

## **WELCOME**

*The assembly is invited to stand as worship begins.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: We come here today not because we already know it all,

**C: but because God welcomes learners of all kinds.**

P: We come here not to give off an air of perfection or superiority,

**C: but to be welcomed by God love, just as we are.**

P: From child to adult, all are welcome in this place -

**C: Whether you choose to sit quietly or to make a joyful noise with all of your being.**

P: This is what Jesus meant when he said,

**C: "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."**

P: Open up our minds and our hearts to your radical hospitality and love, O God,

**C: and enable our lives to declare your praise.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God our comforter:

**C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## OPENING HYMN - *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*, ELW #588

*You are invited to listen to the hymn tune and reflect on the lyrics below.*

- 1     There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
      there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.  
      There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
      There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.
- 2     There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;  
      there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
      There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
      there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.
- 3     For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;  
      and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
      But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;  
      and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.
- 4     'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:  
      greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.  
      Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,  
      and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

## GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

**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.*

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

<sup>19</sup>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!"

<sup>20</sup>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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 54**

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

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

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

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

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

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

L: 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.*

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

<sup>4:1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands for the reading of the gospel.*

## **GOSPEL READING - 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.*

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

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve,

and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."  
<sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put them among the disciples; and taking them in his arms, he said to his followers, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Following the reading the assembly is seated.*

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT -**                      *What is God Like?* by Rachel Held Evans  
and Matthew Paul Turner

**SERMON -** Pastor Melissa Woeppel

**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION - Children of the Heavenly Father, ELW #781**

*You are invited to listen to the hymn tune and reflect on the lyrics below.*

1. Children of the heav'nly Father  
safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven  
such a refuge e'er was given.
2. God his own doth tend and nourish,  
in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them,  
in his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth,  
and their sorrows all he knoweth.
4. Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
his the loving purpose solely  
to preserve them pure and holy.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy – for the church and its ministry; for the well-being of creation; for peace & justice; for the poor, oppressed, & sick; for all who suffer; for the congregation; & for special concerns/occasions.*

As children of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict (*especially*). Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst just as they are. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today (*especially*). Shine your grace on all your saints. 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.**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace by waving, flashing a peace sign, or other form of **distanced** greeting.*

*If you are joining us online, type a message or share a brief word of peace.*

### **OFFERING AND PRAYER**

*We continue to be the church together during this time through prayer and financial support.*

*Your giving ensures that the ministries of this congregation continue now and into the future.*

P: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### **COMMUNION LITURGY**

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God **C: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

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. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name, and join the unending refrain of all creation.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

God of the forgotten, the last, the lost, and least, from the beginning, you created us for common care and mutual upbuilding. When your people wandered from these truths, you promised that a young one would lead them back to you. In his own teaching, Jesus reminded his followers that “whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

Through your Son Jesus Christ, you entrust your very self to us. The still-scarred hands of his resurrection reveal the deep and abiding nature of your love. This love welcomes all and invites everyone to the table, just as Jesus gathered with his disciples to share one final meal.

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus Christ 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.

Great is the mystery of faith. **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

God of radical hospitality, open our hearts little, last, and least among us. Give your church the trust and confidence to be last and servants of all; until that day when you welcome your children and draw all creation near to your heart, making all things new, ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

P: All who hunger and thirst, receive what is offered here. The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated. Time is given for the sharing of elements among households.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC - *Suffer the Little Children to Come unto Me***

**BLESSING**

P: May this sign of God's presence, this shared bread between us, strengthen us and give us peace.

**C: Amen.**

**PRAYER**

P: God of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS (see last page)**

*The assembly is invited to stand for the end of the service.*

**BENEDICTION**

P: People of God, you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, † one God,  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

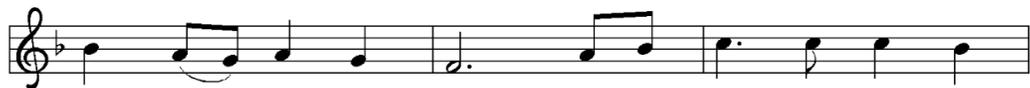
**SENDING HYMN - All Are Welcome, ELW #641**



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace; you are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder" arr. Lani Smith

**Announcements for the week of 9/19/21**



1. Live Christ kicks off today! Join us after worship as we explore our faith and live out the love of Christ. We will learn and share together as disciples of all ages through story, song, art, and more.
2. **Vaccine Clinic - 9/23, 4-8pm.** Please spread the word and let your friends and neighbors know about this opportunity to act in love and care for our neighbors and community.
3. September Diaper Drive - We continue to collect diapers and pull-ups size 4 and up. See Doris Stoechner & Kathy Endorf.
4. Tuesday Bible Study meets at 10am in-person and 7pm via Zoom.

### **Worship Leadership**

#### **September 19, 2021**

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pastor Melissa  
**Assisting Minister:** Angela Bennett  
**Lector:** Gary Brown  
**Zoom and Slides:** Elizabeth Carr  
**Musician:** Greg Ott  
**Ushers:** Glenn and Jann Mueller  
**Greeter:** Kathy Endorf

#### **September 26, 2021**

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pastor Melissa  
**Assisting Minister:** Elizabeth Carr  
**Lector:** Sharon Perko Davis  
**Zoom and Slides:** Bryan Miles  
**Musician:** David Eggers  
**Ushers:** Dave Endorf & Randy Henning  
**Greeter:** Judy Holmes

#### **October 3, 2021**

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pastor Melissa  
**Assisting Minister:** Randy Henning  
**Lector:** Terry Calderwood  
**Zoom and Slides:** Marilyn Wiley

**Musician:** Greg Ott  
**Ushers:** Jim and Doris Stoechner  
**Greeter:** Jeanne Calderwood

#### **October 10, 2021**

**Preaching/Presiding:** Rev. Dr. Teresa Mithen Danieleley  
**Assisting Minister:** Angela Bennett  
**Lector:** Kathy Carr  
**Zoom and Slides:** Rod Wallace  
**Musician:** David Eggers  
**Ushers:** Glen Albers and Bill Billeau  
**Greeter:**