

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

20 AUGUST 2023



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 10

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

P: Merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

P: Righteous God,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

HYMN #886 "OH, FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING"

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.

♫ KYRIE

♫ Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

♫ CANTICLE OF PRAISE

♫ 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: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...our Savior and Lord.*)

C: Amen

READINGS

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

♫ Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

HYMN #759 “MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE”

CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES’ CREED

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

(Each petition ends: P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.)

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...our Savior and Lord.*)

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

**C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Holy Communion is celebrated today.

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

♪ **O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

HYMN #712 “LORD, WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE”

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION HYMN

♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...Jesus Christ our Lord.*)

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN #534 “SAVIOR, AGAIN TO YOUR DEAR NAME”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God!

RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen
Organist: Jason Bousselot or Linda Whitman
Acolyte: Wyatt Easterday
Lector: Rachel Burke
Communion Assistant: Dan Burke
Usher: Brian Bousselot
Cleaners: Marcia Edens

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This Week At A Glance

Wednesday	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Naomi Circle at Bousselot's Pond Education/Bible School staff at Faith
Sunday	10:00 am 10:30 am	Community Worship in Calamus park Beef dinner at CALCO

Those to keep in prayer: Mallory Bousselot; the homebound: Carol Christensen, Shirley Ferguson, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Myrna Kay Petersen, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand and Vera St. John; and those serving in the military: Nick Timmerman.

Volunteers will be in the church office at Faith Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am – noon.

The **noisy offering** will be collected today, Sunday, August 20th.

Naomi Circle will meet Wednesday, August 23rd. at 10:00 am at Bousselot's pond.

There will be **no worship services** at Our Savior's and Faith on August 27th. We will worship in the **Calamus park at 10:00 am** as part of Calamus-Wheatland Fun Days. Please bring lawn chair or blanket.

The **Calamus Volunteer Fire Department** will host their annual beef dinner on Sunday, August 27th.

Bible School will be a one-day event for the whole family on **Monday, August 28**, at Faith. Registration forms are available in the church office or on the church website. Completed forms are due in the church office on Tuesday, August 15.

On **Sunday, September 3rd**, there will be **one** worship service at Our Savior's at 9:00 am.

The fall worship schedule will begin on Sunday, September 10th. 8:00 am worship at Faith, 9:25 am Sunday School at Our Savior's, 10:30 am worship at Our Savior's.

The first day of **Sunday School** will be Sunday, September 10th at Our Savior's starting at 9:25 am. There are classes for all ages.

Confirmand/Parent meeting on September 6th at Faith at 6:00 pm.

Confirmation begins September 13th at Faith at 6:00 pm.

Bible Jam (open to all in 7th – 12th grade) begins September 13th at Faith at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Leah will be having Communion Instruction Classes and acolyte training in October. Please see Pastor Leah if you are interested. An official date and time will be determined by what works best for those interested. Acolyte instruction is for 5th graders and anyone who would like a refresher. Communion instruction is recommended for 4th grade and up, but all ages (adults too!) are welcome.

The Real Goodness and the Real Evil

Matthew 15:10-20 Jesus called the crowd and said to them: "Listen and understand. It is not that which goes into the mouth which defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, that defiles a man." Then his disciples came to him and said, "Do you know that when the Pharisees heard your saying, they were shocked by it?" He answered: "Every plant which my heavenly Father did not plant will be rooted up. Let them be. They are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both of them will fall into the ditch." Peter said to him, "Tell us what this dark saying means." He said, "Are you even yet without understanding? Do you not know that everything which goes into a man's mouth goes down into the stomach, and is evacuated out into the drain? But that which comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and it is these things which defile a man. For from the heart come pernicious thoughts, acts of murder, adultery, theft, false witness, slander. It is these things which defile a man. To eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man."

It may well be held that for a Jew this was the most startling thing Jesus ever said. For in this saying he does not only condemn Scribal and Pharisaic ritual and ceremonial religion; he actually wipes out large sections of the book of Leviticus. This is not a contradiction of the tradition of the elders alone; this is a contradiction of scripture itself. This saying of Jesus cancels all the food laws of the Old Testament. Quite possibly these laws might still stand as matters of health and hygiene and common-sense and medical wisdom; but they could never again stand as matters of religion. Once and for all Jesus lays it down that what matters is not the state of a man's ritual observance, but the state of a man's heart.

No wonder the Scribes and Pharisees were shocked. The very ground of their religion was cut from beneath their feet. This statement was not simply alarming; it was revolutionary. If Jesus was right, their whole theory of religion was wrong. They identified religion and pleasing God with the observing of rules and regulations which had to do with cleanness and with uncleanness, with what a man ate and with how he washed his hands before he

ate it; Jesus identified religion with the state of a man's heart, and said bluntly that these Pharisaic and Scribal regulations had nothing to do with religion. Jesus said that the Pharisees were blind guides who had no idea of the way to God, and that, if people followed them, all they could expect was to stray off the road and to fall into the ditch. And Jesus was profoundly right.

(i) If religion consists in external regulations and observances it is two things. It is far too easy. It is very much easier to abstain from certain foods and to wash the hands in a certain way than it is to love the unlovely and the unlovable, and to help the needy at the cost of one's own time and money and comfort and pleasure.

We have still not fully learned this lesson. To go to church regularly, to give liberally to the church, to be a member of a Bible reading circle are all external things. They are means towards religion; but they are not religion. We can never too often remind ourselves that religion consists in personal relationships and in an attitude to God and our fellow-men.

Further, if religion consists in external observances, it is quite misleading. Many a man has a faultless life in externals but has the bitterest and the most evil thoughts within his heart. The teaching of Jesus is that not all the outward observances in the world can atone for a heart where pride and bitterness and lust hold sway.

(ii) It is Jesus' teaching that the part of a man that matters is his heart. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). As Burns had it in the Epistle to Davie:

"The heart aye's the part aye
That makes us right or wrang."

What matters to God is not so much how we act, but why we act; not so much what we actually do, but what we wish in our heart of hearts to do. "Man," as Aquinas had it, "sees the deed, but God sees the intention."

It is Jesus' teaching--and it is a teaching which condemns every one of us--that no man can call himself good because he observes external rules and regulations; he can call himself good only when his heart is pure. That very fact is the end of pride, and the reason why every one of us can say only, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT) – Public Domain