

**St. Olaf Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, September 1, 2024**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*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.*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
Who forgives all our sin,  
Whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us.**  
**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,**  
**but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**  
**The cravings at war within us**  
**cause conflicts and disputes.**  
**In our desire to be first**  
**we make distinctions among ourselves.**  
**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**  
**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**  
**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,**  
**and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,**  
**our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity  
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of  
✝ Jesus Christ,  
the source of eternal healing,  
your sins are forgiven.  
**Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

**ELW 879**

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**

**pg 203**

**\*Come Let Us Join**

**pg 204**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**Gracious Father, you have been the hope for St Olaf through all generations. So, we, too, faithfully move forward with raising the funds for repairs and improvements to make St Olaf more welcoming to all God's people. Please make us generous and thankful for this opportunity to bless others with your love. Lord, guide us as we create this faith-based, safe environment for the little ones. We rejoice in this opportunity for our children, families, and the community. To you be the Glory! In Jesus' Name, Amen**

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that

your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

**L: Word of God. Word of Life**

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup>tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup>holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup>what is right,  
who speak the truth <sup>1</sup>from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup>to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- <sup>1</sup>on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who <sup>1</sup>fear  
the Lord.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take <sup>1</sup>back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- <sup>1</sup>gainst  
the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup>overthrown.

**Second Reading: James 1:17-27**

<sup>17</sup>Every 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.

<sup>18</sup>In 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.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

<sup>21</sup>Therefore 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.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But 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.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and 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.) <sup>5</sup>So 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?” <sup>6</sup>He 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;  
<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

<sup>21</sup>“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P: The gospel of our Lord

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

**Children’s Sermon**

**Pastor Jim McColley**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Jim McColley**

**\*Hymn**

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

**ELW 512**

**\*Apostles Creed**

**pg 105**

**\* Prayers of Intercession**

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

**\*Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

**Offering:** *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

**\*Offering prayer**

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\* Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy**

**pg 206-207**

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**Holy Communion** Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

**\*Lamb of God**

**pg 208**

**Communion Hymns**

*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*  
*Change My Heart, O God*

**ELW 772**  
**ELW 801**

**\*Prayer After Communion**

Holy God,  
you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.  
Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*Blessing**

God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you,

and give you peace  
**Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*Take My Life, That I May Be*

**ELW 583**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Assisting in Worship**

Presider: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Preaching: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Lynda Mumm

Ushers: Doug Kinseth, Randy Puls, Vera Hartman

Communion: Stacy Hendrickson, Vera Hartman

Tech: Bob Younie