

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 15, 2024
17th 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

***Call to worship**

Who among you is seeking the wisdom of God?

We long to hear God's Word spoken to our hearts.

Who among you is seeking God's bright and holy truth?

We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness.

Who among you is seeking a Spirit-filled life?

We long to live lives of holiness and light.

God grants God's wisdom generously to all who ask.

Come near, people of God!

Let us worship in wisdom and truth.

***Hymn**

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660 v1-2

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**

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me

the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 116:1-9

¹I love the Lord, who has [|] heard my voice,
and listened to my [|] supplication,

**²for the Lord has given [|] ear to me
whenever [|] I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave [|] came upon me;
I came to [|] grief and sorrow.

**⁴Then I called upon the name [|] of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray you, [|] save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the [|] Lord and righteous;
our God is full [|] of compassion.

⁶The Lord watches o- [|] ver the innocent;

I was brought low, | and God saved me.

⁷Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.
for the Lord has dealt | well with you.

**⁸For you have rescued my | life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence | of the Lord
in the land | of the living.

Second Reading: Ephesian 4:10-12

¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)**

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***Gospel: Mark 8:27-38**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P: The gospel of our Lord
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Pastor Jim McColley

Sermon

Pastor Jim McColley

Emma's Installation

***Hymn**

Here, I am Lord

ELW 574 v1-2

***Apostles Creed**

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*** Prayers of Intercession**

Hear Us, O God

Your mercy is great.

***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**

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

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

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

Communion Hymns	<i>Let Us Break Bread Together</i>	ELW 471
	<i>Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ</i>	ELW 674

***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	<i>What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine</i>	ELW 774 v1-2
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***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: Viv Nore
Ushers: Rick Kuhlman, David Osterberg, Fran Long
Communion: Rick and Mary Kuhlman
Tech: Marc Matthes