



September 22, 2024

**18th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Holy Communion**

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 flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Prelude on the tune "Slane" arr. M. Larkin

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. *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 creates, redeems, and sustains us
and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth,
and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ,

God forgives you all your sins.
The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN God Is Here

ELW 526

- 1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.
- 3 Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY.

Let us pray.

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.

Amen

+WORD+

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

CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY TIME

Children may leave worship with the teachers for Bible Story Time. They will return during the Hymn of the Day.

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.

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But 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!"

²⁰But 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM**Psalm 54 (Read responsively by verse)**

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought
my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sustains my life.

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For 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.

A reading from James.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But 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. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:}

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**ELW 175***We all sing*

The musical score consists of two systems of vocal parts. Each system has a soprano line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music is in a simple, homophonic style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line. Below the second system, there is a single treble clef staff with some faint, illegible markings.

God has called us through the proclamation of | the good news,* that we may obtain the glory of our Lord | Jesus Christ. *Repeat Alleluia.*

GOSPEL **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.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for 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." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service ELW 712**

- 1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.
- 2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.

As you, Lord, in deep compassion
 healed the sick and freed the soul,
 by your Spirit send your power
 to our world to make it whole.

- 3 As we worship, grant us vision,
 fill your love's revealing light
 in its height and depth and greatness
 dawns upon our quickened sight,
 making known the needs and burdens
 your compassion bids us bear,
 stirring us to ardent service,
 your abundant life to share.

- 4 Called by worship to your service,
 forth in your dear name we go,
 to the child, the youth, the aged,
 love in living deeds to show;
 hope and health, good will and comfort,
 counsel, aid and peace we give,
 that your servants, Lord, in freedom
 may your mercy know and live.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

A Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Let your just peace reign on peoples suffering from conflict and war,

especially in Ukraine and Russia, throughout the Middle East, in Sudan and Haiti.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer, especially Freda, Sandy, Nancy, Charlie, Susan, Patricia, Rusty, Nancy, Jean, Terry, Lee, Denise, Larry, Patti, Bob, Joan, Ann, Pamela, Bill, Marge, Donna, Marge, Callum, Krista, Paul, Charles, Steven, Tracey, Johanna, Carole, Todd, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Gracious God, we give thanks for those who have been appointed to serve on the call committee and entrusted with the work of discerning a new pastor to guide the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church. Grant them wisdom, patience, and the direction of your Holy Spirit, that they may exercise right judgment, and so serve you and the mission of your people here. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Guide and nurture the people and friends of Grace, Zion and St. Andrew Churches — the future Faith Lutheran Church — as we move ever closer to our joining together to proclaim your Good News and to build a

servant community of healing, hope and new life. Open our hearts and minds to ever new and vibrant visions of your Church for a new day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

CHOIR ANTHEM *Thy Holy Wings* words by C.Berg; Swedish folk tune
arr by W.Miller

Thy holy wings, dear Savior, spread gently over me,
And through the long night watches I'll rest secure in Thee.
Whatever may betide me, be Thou my hiding place,
And let me live and labor each day, Lord, by Thy grace.

Thy pardon, Savior, grant me, And cleanse me in Thy blood;
Give me a willing spirit, A heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into Thy keeping Thy children, great and small,
And while we sweetly slumber, Enfold us one and all.

OFFERTORY HYMN The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531

St. 1 and 2

GATHERING

531

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

The Feast Is Ready



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
 poor his pur - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
 he'll turn yoor wa - ter in - to wine.
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



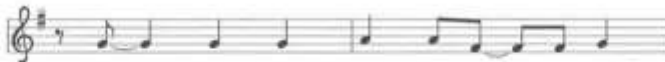
Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King,



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1920

Music: Graham Kendrick

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THE FEAST IS READY
 LR and refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

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

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

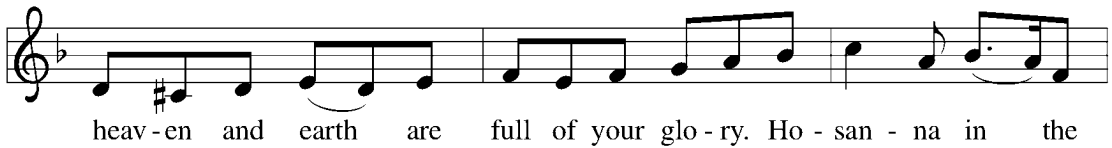
PREFACE

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW 193

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*



Music: Per Harling, b. 1948
Music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress

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GREAT THANKSGIVING

O God most mighty,
 O God most merciful,
 O God our rock and our salvation,
 hear us as we praise,
 call us to your table,
 grant us your life.

We praise you, O God.

When the earth was a formless void,
 you formed order and beauty.
 When Abraham and Sarah were barren,
 you sent them a child;
 When the Israelites were enslaved,
 you led them to freedom.
 Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,
 and the psalmists cried out for healing,
 and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

We bless you, O God.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.
 He was born among the poor,
 he lived under oppression,
 he wept over the city.
 With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus 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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen**
 Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen**
 Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen**
 O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
 O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
 O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
 O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
 O God our strength and our song,
 you show us a vision of a tree of life
 with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.
 Grant us such life,
 the life of the Father to the Son,
 the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
 life in you, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!

Come, the feast is ready! Jesus welcomes you!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God***ELW 195****Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

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.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God all mighty,
God most merciful
✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Lord of All Hopefulness ELW 765

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, September 22, 2024

Presiding Minister: Rev. Geoff Sinibaldo

Musician: Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Assisting Minister: Terry Gustafson

Lector: Arlene Creswell

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donald Millbrandt, Bill Golden, Kathy Golden

Altar Guild: Arlene Creswell, J.J. Trudell

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, September 23, 2024

4:00 p.m. Kids Choir

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

6:30 p.m. Faith Lutheran Parish Life Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, September 26, 2024

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

Saturday, September 28, 2024

2:00 p.m. Faith Lutheran Men's & Women's Group

Sunday, September 29, 2024; 19th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting to Vote on Legal Documents for Closure of St. Andrew and Legal Incorporation of Faith Lutheran Church, Approval of Constitution, Approval of Distribution of Legacy Gifts.

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@standrewct.org

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor, phone: 860.857.9362

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator