

Holy, Holy (music on screen)

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: Carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

**A: Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

**A: 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

L: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

## COMMUNION MUSIC VIDEO

“Gratitude” by Brandon Lake

## 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.

**A: Amen.**

## SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS

### BLESSING

L: God all mighty, God most merciful ✚ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

**A: Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN-

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (ELW 547) (Words on Screen)

### DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**A: Thanks be to God!**

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**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Christine McNeal

**Worship Steward:** Marty Heller

**Greeters:** Carl & Gail Thorson

**Ushers:** Mark Makinson

**Lector:** John Mehlberg

**Communion Prep:** Jean Harrison

**Comm. Asst:** Becky Edinger & Judy Sykes

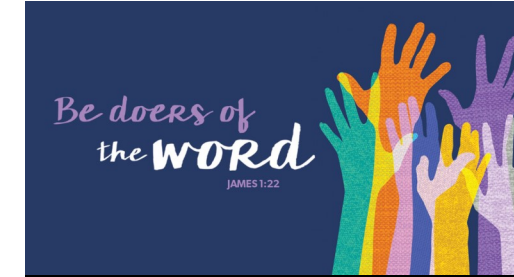
**Hospitality:** Ginger Bauknecht & Gail Thorson

**Musician:** Sandy Erickson

**SS Teacher:** Emma Rapp

**Counters:** Jean Harrison & Jake Dixon

**Livestream:** Louis Kehinde



St. Paul Lutheran Church

September 1, 2024

15th Sunday

after Pentecost

**Introduction:** 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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING HYMNS

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship” (Words on Screen)

“Just a Closer Walk” (ELW 697) (Words on Screen)

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

### Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**A: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Gracious God,

**A: 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.**

L: 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.

**A: Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Children's Message—Dismissal to Children's Chapel

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

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

L: A reading from Deuteronomy

1So 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. 2You 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. 6You 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!" 7 For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? 8And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? 9But 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.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 15

L: A reading from Psalm

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

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

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

**<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

L: Holy wisdom; Holy Word.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

#### Second Reading – James 1:17-27

L: A Reading from James

<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 im-

planted 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.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" (Words on Screen)**

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

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark

**A: 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."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

B:

**Sermon**

**Pastor Christine McNeal**

### HYMN OF THE DAY :

**"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" (ELW 512) (Words on Screen)**

### NEW MEMBER PRESENTATION (Insert) (Screen)

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end "Merciful God." and the congregation will respond "Receive our prayer".

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, "Peace be with you."*

### OFFERING "Special Music"

*Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at [stpaulpontiac.org](http://stpaulpontiac.org)*

### Offering Prayer

L: 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.

**A: Amen.**

### MEAL

*All are welcome at Christ's table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death; And by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: