

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Rev. Mike Opfermann
1023 Michigan Ave., Marysville, MI 48040
810-364-7081

Our Mission

Journeying together in love for God and for all people.

Our Vision

A world where all people will experience love
and know their value in the eyes of God.

Welcome to Worship!
INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

The Heart of the Matter

When clay becomes a pot, it must first have a center. As a potter spins, pushes, and pulls the clay into its final form, it can easily lose its center and become misshapen. Having lost its center, it fails to fully be what it is being created to be—a pot, a pitcher, a plate, a thing of beauty, a vessel for others.

Faith and religious practice have lost their center in today's readings. Quoting Isaiah, Jesus calls into question "This people" that "honors me with their lips" but whose "hearts are far from me" (Mark 7:6). Some in the religious community have begun focusing on surface matters (the washing of hands, what one eats, the traditions of the elders) and have forgotten the core. What really matters is how one's faith is expressed in mercy, in words and actions that build up rather than tear down the neighbor.

In the second reading James wonders about those who look at themselves in a mirror and upon walking away forget who they are (James 1:23-24). For James, they are simply hearers of the word and not doers. Their lives do not reflect the love and mercy that has claimed them. And so it is with us. We do not live as the people God has claimed us to be. Our lives lose their center. Our faith practices focus on surface things rather than the core. We fail to be what God has created and is creating us to be—vessels poured out for others. We look at ourselves in the mirror and upon walking away forget who and whose we are.

At the heart of the Christian assembly is Jesus—in word, in song, in prayer, in the neighbor, in water, bread, and wine. Jesus, who embodies forgiveness and mercy, is the heart. Again and again, life becomes misshapen. Again and again, the potter reshapes the clay. The splash of a watery cross, the taste of bread and wine: these things center life in Christ. God's mercy washes over us. God's mercy is implanted in us. God creates life anew; deformed hearts are reformed for works of mercy and love.

ELW = red hymnal ACS = purple hymnal

Gathering

The Holy spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Confess our sins and silence 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.

...In the name of † Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

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

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.

Word

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

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

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

After the reading: Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

Italicized text: spoken by Worship Assistant

Bold text: assembly sings

Melody: Dix ("For the Beauty of the Earth")

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

**Who may enter where you dwell,
There abide, your praise to tell?**

Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart and do not slander others, who do no wrong to their friends nor spread rumors about their neighbors,

**Who is worthy in your sight,
Lord, to serve you day and night?**

Those who reject the wicked but honor those who fear the Lord, who stand by what they promise no matter what the cost, who do not give money in hope of gain and cannot be bribed against the innocent.

**God's good word to such is sure:
Ever they shall stand secure.**

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

After the reading: Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

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

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

Before the reading: The holy gospel according to Mark, the seventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Mike Opfermann

Hymn of the Day

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

Holy Baptism

Vallie Siena Varty

See Insert

Prayers of Intercession

We respond to each petition: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

At this time, we share God's peace with our neighbors. Congregation is then seated for the offering.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

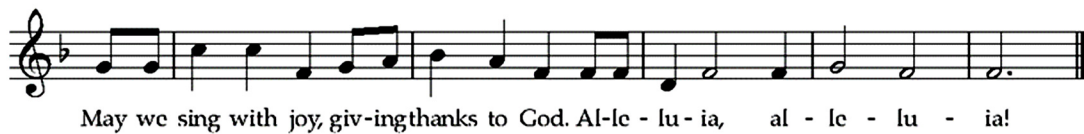
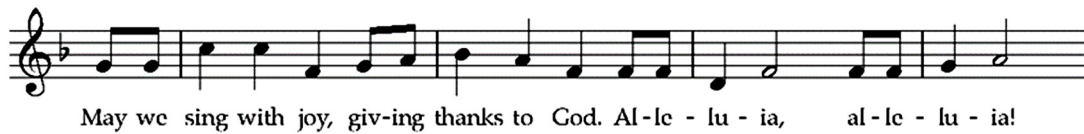
The table is prepared as offering and worship record cards are collected and brought forward.



Online giving is now available. Simply scan this QR code with your phone's camera, click on the link, and give as you feel led.

Offertory

Be Thankful



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

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come, here is your God.

Thanks be to God.

Communion

All are welcome to Christ's table!

In this meal, we meet Jesus and the expansive life He brings. An usher will invite you forward to receive bread from Pastor. You can then receive red wine from the chalice or an individual cup. White grape juice is also available in individual cups. As you return down the side aisle, you may dispose of your cup in the basket. If you would like to receive communion from Pastor, but are unable to come up front, please let an usher know and Pastor will come to you.

Communion Hymns

Borning Cry
Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 732
ELW 685

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

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.

Sending

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

Sending of Communion

Announcements

Blessing of Students and Teachers

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

Earth and All Stars!

ELW 731

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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The Beacon: Pilgrim's Weekly E-news



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Serving in Worship

	This Morning Sept 1	Next Sunday Sept 8
Musician:	Cindy Rogers	Michelle Carlson
Worship Assistant:	Geof Kusch	Rick Carlson
Worship Coordinator:	Fred Russell	Tom Roehl
Usher:	Sue Winzeler	Geof Kusch
Acolyte:	Keagan Mischka	Charles Taylor
Reader:	Steve Kennedy	Mark White
Communion Assistant:	Colleen Schenck	Nadine LaGruth
Greeters:	Vern & June Wheelis	Tom & Sandy Roehl
Coffee Bar Attendant:	Karen McCormick	Jenifer Kusch
Coffee With Luther Host:	Pastor and Alice	GWOH Vicksburg Hall
Altar Guild:	Tammy Bakko Judy M. & Barb H.	Gale Smith -----
Bread Baker:	Judy McCarthy	Jenna & Alison Jackson
Offering Tellers:	Peggi Starkey Nadine LaGruth	Fred Russell Nadine LaGruth

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are given in memory of Joshua Avedisian by Trina Avedisian.

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WIFI: PILGRIM Password: YouAreLoved

Next Week's Texts

Genesis 2: 4b-7,15-18, 20-22, 3:1-8; Luke 11:1-4

