Sunday, September 26, 2021

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

"A Refusal to be Jesus to Others" *Light of Truth* blog, India

St. Mark Lutheran Church
One North Road
Circle Pines, MN 55014

Sunday September 26, 2021
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am

PRELUDE

MEDITATION
Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.
C: Amen.
L: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
Silence is kept for reflection.
L: God, our comforter,
C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.
L: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.
C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN **"How Small our Span of Life"**

GREETING

L: 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

L: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

(+) indicates that the assembly stands as you are able.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC **"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"**

FIRST READING **James 5:13-20**

Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

[13]Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.
[14]Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. [15]The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. [16]Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. [17]Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. [18]Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. [19]My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, [20]you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

L: The word of the Lord**. C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 19:7-14

Our Psalm today will be read responsively. The lectern side will read the regular print and the pulpit side will read the bold.

[7]The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
[8]The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
[9]The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
[10]More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
[11]By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
[12]Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.
[13] Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
[14]Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

+GOSPEL **Mark 9:38-50**

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.

L: The holy gospel according to Mark **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[38]John said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." [39]But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. [40]Whoever is not against us is for us. [41]For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. [42]"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. [43]If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. [45]And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. [47]And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, [48]where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. [49]"For everyone will be salted with fire. [50]Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

SERMON **Pastor Mollie Dvorak**

HYMN OF DAY **"All Are Welcome"**

+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 power of 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

L: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each portion of the prayers: L: Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

L: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

+PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The congregation may share a social distance sign of peace with one another.

OFFERING

An offering basket is in the back of the sanctuary for you to drop off your offering. At this time we will not be passing the plates but we continue to be grateful for your generosity.

+OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: 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

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.

+HOLY COMMUNION

The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered as part of our worship. If you did not grab an individual cup of Communion, please let an usher know and they will get you one. We will take communion together in our seats and Pastor Mollie will instruct us.

All are welcome to receive the bread and the grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

+POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

L: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+BENEDICTION

L: Remember this day and every day
That the Lord Blesses you and Keeps you
The Lord's face shines on you and is gracious unto you
The Lord looks upon you with favor and gives you peace
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN **"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"**

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. The Living Word dwells in you.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lector: Keli Moffat
Prayers: Lis Trouten
Ushers: Don and Connie Lundholm
Greeters: John Wilberg

PRAYER AND CONCERN

Jeff Johnson, as he heals from knee surgery
Kathy Christensen's brother-in-law, Bob, who has been placed on hospice
We also pray for: Robbin, Verna, Yvonne, Susan, Sherry, Sue Frieburg, Wendy, Kelly, Sandy, Mashell, Shannon, Larry, Leslie, Dave, Sandie, and Mark.

Please contact the office with any updates to this prayer and concern list—thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Communion Class
We will offer a first communion class on Wednesday October 13th at 6pm. If you are interested in attending, please fill out the form which can be found under 'Forms' on our website or by following this link: https://forms.gle/NQuEPvSVrL4rA5PB8. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Mollie or Jenny. We will celebrate their first communion together in church on Sunday October 17th.

Have you thought about… How your faith is affected by the tough stuff
Next Sunday, October 3rd is our next adult ed opportunity! We'll meet in the sanctuary after worship, where we will hear from Ellie McCann, where she'll share how her faith was affected by her cancer diagnosis.

ELCA Youth Gathering July 2022
This chance in a lifetime trip is coming to Minneapolis! Our high school summer trip will be this and it is open to all youth in grades 8-12th! We're having an informational meeting this coming Wednesday September 29th at 7pm - come with all your questions!

Sunday School continues today!
Today we will continue talking about Creation and have a tasty creation snack! We're still looking for helpers - sign ups are out in the narthex. There are supplies that we need for the year as well - an Amazon wish list has been created! (https://a.co/1OA0pMO).

October It's the Little Things Experiment - Tanzania
For this month's experiment, we are inviting you to give up something that you regularly spend money on. Such as a coffee, dining out, or a special treat for yourself. Place that money in the envelope that is provided, and bring it back to church, to help support our sister congregation in Tanzania. This may seem small, but it's a great fasting practice. You can pick up your envelope outside the narthex or you can always make a donation to Tanzania on line as well. Don't forget to buy your quilt tickets either!

New Members
We will be recognizing new members on Sunday October 10th. Please join us as we continue to grow our community of faith. If you are interested in joining the church, please talk with Pastor Mollie or Jenny.

St. Mark Giving
September 13th through 19th giving totaled: $5,504
Needed to cover Plan for Ministry: $5,490

Worship Attendance
September 12: 192
September 5: 125
August 29: 150

This week at St. Mark

Monday 9/27	Office Hours: Closed - *Pastor Mollie and Jenny available via email and phone* Covid Team Meeting: 6pm
Tuesday 9/28	Office hours: 10-3:30pm Staff Meeting: 10:30am Social Justice Team Meeting: 6pm
Wednesday 9/29	Office hours: 12-5pm Confirmation: 6:30pm ELCA Youth Gathering Interest Meeting: 7pm High School Youth Group: 7:30pm
Thursday 9/30	Office hours: 10-3pm Morning Quilters: 9:30am
Saturday 10/2	AA: 10:30am
Sunday 10/3	Worship at 9:30am Education/Fellowship: 10:45am

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Growing Together in God's Love to Serve Others

SAINT MARK
Evangelical Lutheran Church