

# St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church

## Fifteenth Weekend after Pentecost

Saturday, September 18, 2021 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 19, 2021 9:30 a.m.

### *Introduction to the day*

*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.*

*~Please quiet your hearts, your minds, and your cell phones ~*

**PRELUDE** (5:00) - “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” -arr. J. Linker

(9:30) - “Children of the Heavenly Father” -arr. Thomas Gieschen

### **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**C:** **Amen**

**P:** Let us confess our sins for the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** 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.**

**P:** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✠ Jesus Christ, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**C:** **Amen**

### **GREETING**

**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

**C: 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.**

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11: 18-20

*(Read by: Julie Starks)*

*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.*

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

<sup>19</sup>But 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!"

<sup>20</sup>But 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.

**L: The word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

*(Read by: Julie Starks)*

*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.*

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

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

**L: The word of the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

*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.*

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

### MESSAGE - "What to do with Fear" *Rev. Brian Hooper*

(9:30) - "The Lord is My Light" *Capers*

*Choir*

*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*

## **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**

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

*A brief silence.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. We pray for all affected by ongoing wildfires in the western United States. We pray for relief efforts following Hurricane Ida, Tropical Storm Nicholas, and other major storms. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. We pray for the Afghan people and all living there during this time of political turmoil and conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### **OFFERTORY -**

*(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis. Information for both programs can be found on the Electronic Giving page at [ssmleca.org](http://ssmleca.org).)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P:** 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 those with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

P: People of God,  
you are Christ's body,  
bringing new life to a suffering world.  
The holy Trinity, † one God,  
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

### HYMN OF THE DAY - "Children of the Heavenly Father"

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system consists of a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff.

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958  
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune  
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### DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.  
C: Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** (5:00) - “Closing Voluntary” - *S. Clark*  
(9:30) - “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” *arr. Gerard Bunk*

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***The Eternal Candle is given by Bob & Shirley Lieske  
in Honor of their 68<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary***

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN THE WORSHIP!**

Reader: Julie Starks

Saturday Ushers: Bob Brownell, Jim Hennessy

Sunday Ushers: Dan Resterhouse, Mason Resterhouse, Tom Zuleger

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Women of St Stephen the Martyr are invited** to a day of camaraderie and fellowship with other Lutheran women on October 9, 2021 at Mount Zion Lutheran Church, 12012 W North Avenue, Wauwatosa. You will have a chance to listen to a variety of interesting speakers on: Human Trafficking, Mediation ( a retired nurse and chaplain will present this workshop), Bee Ministry from Redeemer Lutheran Church and Baptismal Living ( Pastor Mary Martha will discuss how the lead pipes have affected Milwaukee children). You will be able to buy your lunch from the Corner Bakery. Masks will be required, and we will follow the CDC guidelines. Registration ends on 9/24. The registration forms are located on the Women's Kiosk in the narthex of the church. We hope to see you there!

The Greater Milwaukee Synod Reconciling In Christ Ministry team will be hosting a Pride Worship Service entitled "Coming Out Beloved" on Saturday, October 9th at 10:30am. This worship service will be at Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N Stowell Ave. in Milwaukee. We are prepared to have this event either inside or outside depending on the weather. So please bring a lawn chair or blanket with your family and friends. Also, bring along a bag lunch and share in some fellowship together following the worship. We are strongly encouraging all to wear their masks to this event. With the two season cancellation of Pride events in Milwaukee we thought it would be good for us to gather for a time of worship and celebration of our place in this church and God's creation.

*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*

## **KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER**

Suzi Angeletti, Fred Ankebrant, Melissa Cooper, John Drover, Mary Freiburger, Joyce Gagliano, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Betty Kroll, Vic & Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, Shirley Rau, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Bob & JoAnn Soderstrom, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter, Kipp Zimmermann.

## **PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff	Cathy & Mark Kossov, friends of Lynda Johnson
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM	Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan	Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family	Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff	Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother-in-law of Barbara & Dan Davies	Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman	Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman	Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske	Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas	Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann	Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies	Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson	Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus	Sharon Maschke, sister-in-law of Pam Maschke
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan	Tim Ingram, grandson of Carole & Ron Ropel
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau	Denise Hajos, friend of Kelly Sachse
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant	Bonnie, friend of Kurt & Jenny Koeff
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Louie Baumgartner, family member of the Lieske's.
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Barbara Goelz, friend of Kelly Sachse
Nikki Bruneau, friend of Kelly Sachse	Peter Misko, friend of Doug Winter family
James Haas, friend of Mark & Patti Winter	Kathy Manders, friend of Doug Winter family
Rose Zovi, friend of Shelly Rosenstock	Tom Freiburger, son of Mary Freiburger
Peter Salza, friend of Doug Winter family	Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller	Paulie Long, friend of Kelly and Greg Sachse
Gloria Kliner, sister-in-law of Shirley Lieske	Tom Schmidt, friend of Kelly and Greg Sachse
Jerry Woelfel – nephew of El & Nancy Schneider	Tim Drover, son of John Drover

*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*