

*An evening setting of Holy Communion*



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Saturday, September 22, 2018  
5:30 pm  
Liturgy of Word and Sacrament  
Pentecost 18

Interims: The Reverend Larry Hoover and Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile  
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[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

# ***Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!***

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected with the offering.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

**Devotional** – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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 an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular 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.

## **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Kneel/Sit*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

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.**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **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.**

## **KYRIE**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20**

A reading from Jeremiah the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 54 (read responsively)**

*God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

*All: God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)*

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

A reading from James the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> chapters.

*{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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{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.}*

<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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*The assembly stands.*

Together we confess our faith:

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**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**

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all those who suffer and mourn (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children in our midst and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

You surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling the story of your lovingkindness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

*Please be seated, while the table is set.*

*The assembly stands.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God,  
you open wide your hand  
and satisfy the need of every living thing.  
You have set this feast before us.  
Open our hands to receive it.  
Open our hearts to embrace it.  
Open our lives to live it.  
We pray this through Christ our 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 him thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

All glory to you, Almighty God, heavenly Father:  
    out of Your great love for us You gave Your only Son Jesus,  
    so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have  
    eternal life.  
It was your Son Jesus  
    who freely surrendered Himself to suffer death  
    on the cross for us and for our salvation.  
There, on that cross,  
    He willingly offered Himself up as a full,  
    perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.  
By that gift of love and grace  
    we are your people,  
    born of water and word,  
    served, fed, and forgiven at your Holy Table  
    and called together by Your Holy Spirit.

Therefore we offer ourselves  
as disciples who follow  
as witnesses to the world  
and as living memory of His gift of grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son our Lord.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

On 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 many  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son our Lord.

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

### **THE 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.**

### **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:*

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

*Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:*

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

**Amen.**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,  
you have given us not only this bread and cup,  
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

Filled again by these signs of your grace,  
may we hunger for your reign of justice,  
may we thirst for your way of peace,  
for you are Lord forevermore.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **QUIET MEDITATION**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **Welcoming God as a Child**

All the greatness humankind can fashion for itself is put to shame by the glory God gives to childlike faith. In the gospel reading two weeks from today, Jesus will tell his disciples, “whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it” (Mark 10:15). Everything is upside-down in Jesus’ teachings—children know more than scholars, servants become greater than masters, to die is to win life, the last shall be first and the first shall be last. In today’s gospel, Jesus insists that welcoming a young child means welcoming Jesus, which means welcoming our all-powerful God.

Surely childlike faith is one thing, but a child standing in God’s place? Jesus in the form of a little kid we can welcome with open arms? Yes. This is the kind of unexpected reversal that the Almighty seems to love. For God is not only welcomed through a child; God became a child.

In ten weeks it will be Advent, and we will be asked again to stretch our imaginations and attempt to fathom the idea of God living as a baby. Do we truly welcome this truth of God’s identity and ways? Can we truly welcome all that God’s plan brings us, having faith that our journey has been walked before, believing that the one who has fully completed it returns to our sides to guide us on our way?

Let us, as little children, lift our arms toward our God in prayer. Let us welcome each other in peace. And let us open our arms to receive all that lies ahead of us.

## ***Daily Readings for the Week September 23-29***

<b>Sunday:</b>	Jeremiah 11:18-20 <i>or</i> Wisdom 1:16—2:1, 12-22 Psalm 54 James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 139:1-18 2 Kings 5:1-14 James 4:8-17
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 139:1-18 2 Kings 11:21—12:16 James 5:1-6
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 139:1-18 Jeremiah 1:4-10 John 8:21-38
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 19:7-14 Exodus 18:13-27 Acts 4:13-31
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 19:7-14 Deuteronomy 1:1-18 Acts 12:20-25
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 19:7-14 Deuteronomy 27:1-10 Matthew 5:13-20

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