

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 1, 2024 at 10am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

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 GATHERING

PRELUDE ● Adagio in G Minor

arr. S Drummond Wolff (1916–2004)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ♥ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

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.



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 • ELW Setting Ten



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

GLORIA ● ELW Setting Ten



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

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.

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALTER ● Psalm 34:15-22

- ¹ Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?
- ² Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;
- ³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
- ⁴ 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.
- 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.

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.

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. 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. You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 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. If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ● ELW Setting Ten



GOSPEL READING ● 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.

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark, the seventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; 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.) 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?" 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; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. "For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Miller

HYMN OF THE DAY • ACS 987 Guide My Feet

GUIDE MY FEET



APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 – LITANY FOR LABOR DAY

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

God of all creation, you made us co-creators with you, shaping the world in which we live.

You gave dignity to our labor by sending your Son to labor with us.

By our labor, you enrich the world.

By our labor we enjoy the fruits of creation.

For providing varieties of work and for blessing our labor:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who plow the field, those who make the plow; for farmers and farm workers, for steelworkers and machinists; for those who work with their hands, and those who move the earth:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who tend the sick and those who seek new cures; for doctors and nurses, for scientists and technicians; for those who work with technology; for those who work toward continued needed vaccines:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who think and those who create; for inventors and explorers, for artists and musicians; for those who write books and those who entertain:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who work in offices, those who work at home, and those who work in warehouses; for administrative assistants, for those who support, for IT experts, for those who market products and those who move them:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who inspire our minds, and those who motivate us; for teachers and preachers, for public servants, and those who protect, and those who defend, for religious servants, missionaries, those who help the poor, and those who work with our children:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those whose labor is tidiness and cleanliness; for custodians and sanitation workers, for laborers who clean and for those who produce cleaning products:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who sail the waves and those who fly the skies; for captains and attendants, for astronauts and deep sea divers; for those who chart and those who navigate:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

Guard and protect those who labor in the world.

Bless the work of our hands, O Lord.

Bless the retired and those who intercede in prayer for others. Especially, bring healing to all who are ill, and embrace with your love all who mourn.

Give health to the sick and hope to the bereaved.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All may share a sign of Peace.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at <u>saintlukegive.us</u> You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church 9100 Colesville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFERTORY ANTHEM • Maryton

arr. Adam Scott Graham (1986)

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

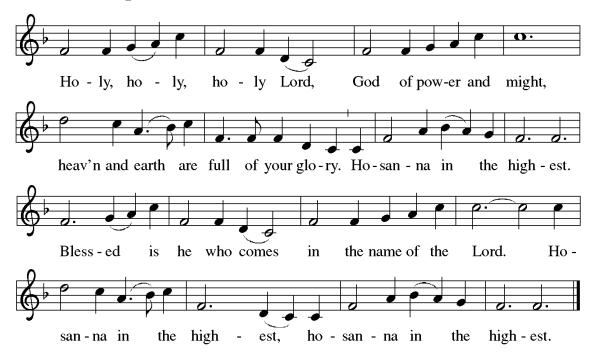
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS • ELW Setting Ten



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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga a nosostros tu reino, hagase tu voluntad, asi en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia; perdona nuestras ofensas, como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion, mas libranos del mal.

Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. Thanks be to God!

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server. Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

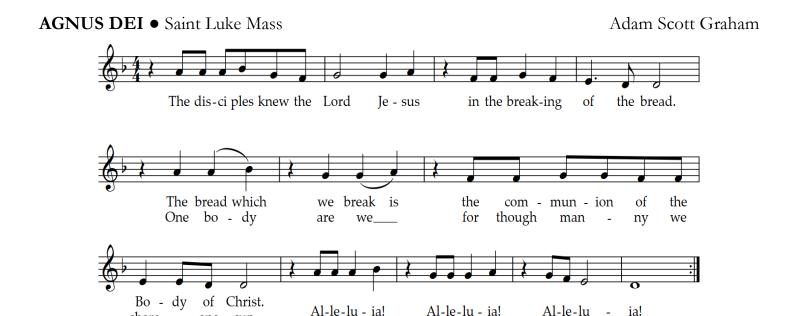
The body of Christ, given for you.

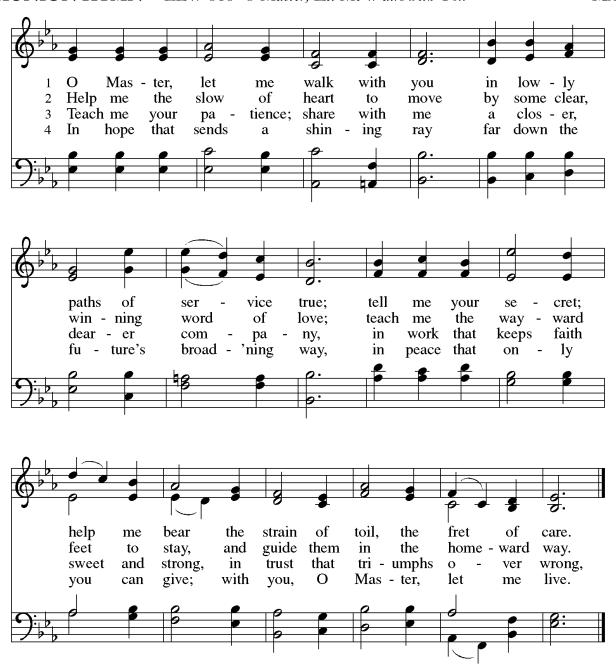
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

share____ one cup.

The communicant may say:

Amen.





POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

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

Amen.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ♣ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE • Fanfare for Organ

John Cook (1918–1984)

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WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller Senior Pastor

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski Confirmation Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield

Director of Discipleship and High School Ministries

READER

Rob Ahlberg

MUSICIAN

Adam Scott Graham Director of Music

PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY (from Bread for the World)

Almighty God, Creator of the world, we give you thanks for the gift of stewardship and work. Deliver us, in our various occupations, from the service of self alone, that we may do our work in truth and beauty and for the common. God of justice, we pray for all workers, that they would receive fair compensation and treatment in their labor. For those who seek work, work through all to provide jobs — both citizen and immigrant alike. For those who cannot work, provide sustenance. Make those who lead the industries and commerce of this country responsive to your perfect will. Build up in the leaders of our country a respect for all labors. Deliver us from the maligning evils of greed, sloth, and gluttony that we may lead lives of holiness in service to you and our neighbor.

We ask all these things for our good and your glory. Amen.



Homecoming Sunday: Next Week!

September 8, 2024 Let Us Come Together

WORSHIP

10:00 a.m. (English)

Installation of Council, Dedication of the Baptismal Font and new Worship Furnishings, (meet the craftsperson!)

Honoring Chef Howard Harris for 25 years

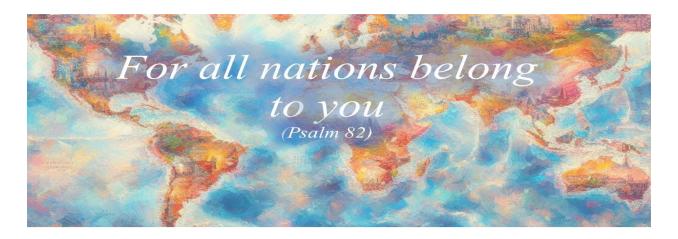
5:00 p.m. (Spanish)

CELEBRATION

11:00 a.m. Live Band (WOW), Food, Bounce House, and More!



Discipleship in a Democracy: Responding to the Threat of Christian Nationalism



Concerned about threats to democracy in America, occasioned by the rise of Christian Nationalism?

Plan to participate in this event:

Friday October 25 – Saturday October 26, 2024 Saint Luke Lutheran Church 9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Details and Registration **WWW.FLIV.US**

Featuring

- The Honorable Jamie Raskin
- Amanda Tyler, Christians Against Christian Nationalism
 - Roger Willer, Theological Ethics, ELCA
 - Amy Reumann, Witness in Society, ELCA
 - Paul Wee, Human Rights Advocate, Professor, Author
 - Michael Grzonka, Luther Studies, Germany
 - Bruk Ayele Asale, Mekane Yesus Seminary, Ethiopia
 - Other International Leaders
- Special message from The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
- FESTIVAL OF ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST
 - OUR NAME SUNDAY and

God's work. Our hands.

8:45 and 11:15
MORNING WORSHIP
Holy Communion, Anointing of Hands
10:00

SERVICE PROJECT FOR ALL AGES

Congregation Service Project Benefiting Border Servant Corps (BSC)
Creating Clothing Bags to be Sent to BSC

New, with no logos or images medium men's unisex sweatshirts & sweatpants (no logos or images), medium men's socks (size 5-9), medium men's briefs, — all can be placed in blue bins in Fireside Room or Hallways

JOIN THESE MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:

Reformation Bells – Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning 9/10/24 This is our advanced handbell ensemble. All are welcome, but we move at a fast pace.

RSCM Choristers – Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. beginning 9/11/24

A youth-oriented choral and vocal training course available for children in first grade through middle school. We sing on the first Sundays of each month, Easter Sunday, and Christmas Eve. Though most of our work is in a group setting, workbooks offer a self-guided approach with one-on-one time with Mrs. Evans and Mr. Graham. No auditions required.

Schola Cantorum – Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. began 8/21/24

The semi-professional primary ensemble that leads us in worship, Schola Cantorum is open to all ages 15 and up. We focus on chant, hymns, choral anthems from the classical European tradition, Taize, and various other styles including gospel. While no auditions are required, it's always best to first meet with our Director of Music for placement.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

SUNDAY, September 1—Pentecost 15B

8:30am Tech Rehearsal

10:00am Worship (Hybrid)

3:30pm Girl Scouts

5:00pm Misa Español

5:00pm AA

6:00pm Reception

MONDAY, September 2 Labor Day Saint Luke Offices Closed

6:00pm Yoga

TUESDAY, September 3

9:00am CDS Classes begin
1:00pm CDS Aftercare
4:00pm Piano Lessons
7:00pm Girl Scouts

WEDNESDAY, September 4

9:00am CDS Classes

1:00pm CDS Aftercare

10:00am Women in Community

7:30pm Schola Cantorum

THURSDAY, September 5

9:00am CDS Classes 1:00pm CDS Aftercare

7:30pm Centering Prayer (Zoom)

8:30pm AA

FRIDAY, September 6

9:00am CDS Classes 1:00pm CDS Aftercare

SATURDAY, September 7

9:30am AA 11:00am Al-Anon

SUNDAY, September 8 - Homecoming

Sunday

8:30am Tech Rehearsal 8:45am Schola Cantorum **10:00am Worship (Hybrid)** 11:00am Homecoming Celebration

5:00pm San Lucas Fellowship

5:00pm AA

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed