

We hope all is well with you!! Please contact the church at [291-6225](tel:291-6225) and leave a message if you or someone you know needs to be added to the prayer list or for any needs. Worship time for now is at 10:15 AM until the first of weekend of October, then it changes to 10 AM. We have a new pastor starting on October 4th – Pastor Beth Olson. We would love to see you back at church☺

**DO YOU STILL WANT THE WEEKLY DEVOTION MAILED TO YOU??
I WILL CONTINUE TO MAIL IT UNLESS I HEAR DIFFERENTLY FROM YOU!!**

17th Sunday after Pentecost – September 19, 2021

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day

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

18 The LORD made it known to me and I knew;
then thou didst show me their evil deeds.

19 But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more."

20 But, O LORD of hosts, who judgest righteously,
who triest the heart and the mind, let me see thy vengeance upon them, for to thee have I committed my cause.

Psalm: 54

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David, when the Ziphites went and told Saul,
"David is in hiding among us." Save me, O God, by thy name, and vindicate me by thy might.

2 Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

3 For insolent men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life;
they do not set God before them. [Selah]

4 Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

5 He will requite my enemies with evil;
in thy faithfulness put an end to them.

6 With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to thee;
I will give thanks to thy name, O LORD, for it is good.

7 For thou hast delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

Second Reading: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind.

The Holy Gospel According to Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to ask him.

And they came to Caper'na-um; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they were silent; for on the way they had discussed with one another who was the greatest. And he sat down and called the twelve; and he said to them, "If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." And he took a child, and put him in the midst of them; and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Devotion

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And He [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, for He was teaching His disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after three days He will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask Him. --Mark 9:30-32

This is one of those times in Jesus' life that doesn't get any attention, either in movies or in storybooks. It's easy to see why. Jesus is trying to keep His presence a secret, so He doesn't get swarmed by thousands of people looking for healing and other kinds of help. He wants to focus on what He's teaching His disciples. And it sounds like a difficult lesson: "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after three days He will rise."

I wonder if this was a frustrating time for the disciples. They were used to seeing miracles on almost a daily basis. They were used to challenging parables and stimulating discussions. Even Jesus' enemies could add to the excitement of a day with Jesus!

But now—no. Secrecy, teaching—and the shadow of the cross.

And yet this time was utterly necessary for them. In a few short months they would be turned loose to carry the Gospel of Jesus to the ends of the earth. They would watch Jesus endure the cross, die, and rise from the dead. They would finally start to understand the whole reason He

came—and the wonderful gifts of forgiveness, joy, and everlasting life He won for us. But none of this would happen without teaching. To pass it on, they needed this quiet time with Jesus first.

You, too, may be experiencing a quiet time in your life. It may seem like nothing but boredom, and you long for a change. Or it may seem like endless difficulty—everything is too hard, and you don't know why, and you're ready to be done with this and move on to a new stage in life. I've been there, and I think you have, too.

But it's during those quiet times that God continues to work in our lives, helping us grow in Him, strengthening our faith and helping us to mature as Christians. It may look like nothing is happening—but then you see the fruit of that time, years and years later.

Any time, whether it's exciting or quiet, is worthwhile—if you're with Jesus.

Lord, please draw me close to You and help me to learn from You. **Amen**

Thoughts for the Day

Would you say this is a quiet or an exciting time in your life right now?

When were there quiet times in Jesus' life? Why do you think God allowed those times to be so quiet?

When have you seen God work through a quiet or even boring time in your life to strengthen you in Him?

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord of hosts, You oppose the proud and give grace to the humble. Help us by Your Spirit to submit ourselves to You and resist the devil, that he would flee from us. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, give our Synod's leaders and all pastors the wisdom that comes down from above, that they may be peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. Let them sow among us in peace, and grant a harvest of righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, pacify our passions by Your Spirit, that we may not be ruled by the jealousy and selfish ambition that give rise to disorder and every vile practice. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, uphold this world in Your order. Preserve the Church and the preaching of Your Word against all enemies. Bless our homes, that parents and children may serve one another faithfully and grow in instruction and faith until life's end. Give health and wisdom to all who serve in public office, that their authority may be exercised for the benefit of our people. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, look with kindness on the sick and those in any need. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, give us faith to draw near to Your altar in repentance, that we may receive Your Son with cleansed hands and purified hearts as He draws near to us in His body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord of hosts, grant that what we ask from You may not be squandered after our passions, but sought rightly in faith, that we may receive them and put them to service for You and our neighbors; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen**

Offering

Please consider to continue to give to your church and your ministry here and around the world.

Offering Prayer

Faithful Father, thank you that you give the gift of abundant, eternal life. You have said that you are a Good Father who gives us good gifts. Your generosity overflows to us. Everything we have is a gift from you. As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen

Lord's Prayer

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

Blessing

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

Dismissal

The the grace of the Word of life rest upon you; the love of the Source of life embrace you; and the transforming power of the Breath of life help, strengthen and surprise you, this day and all your days.
Go in peace. Thanks be to God.

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St. John's prayers are for.... those that are at the heart of our Christian love...Bailey Ann Smith (ask Jerry and Kathy Mixdorf) / Hayden Schares (tests and treatments) / Penny Teisinger (tests and treatments) / Gerre Claney / Lisa Finley (ask Marie Hruska) / Don Meister (Jeff Volker dad) / Jennifer McFarland (multiple sclerosis) / Mary Ann Mixdorf (special care) / LuAnn Hansen (cancer treatment-Denise Pierce sister) / Kris Scarbrough (cancer treatment-Denise Pierce sister) / Kathy (Jerry) Mixdorf / Judy Olson / Conrad Gallmeyer / Marie Hruska / Pastor Jeff Blank / John Fettkether (Kathy Gallmeyer dad) / Cat Reed (vision problems) / Nolan Gray (great-grandson Conrad and Julie Gallmeyer) / John Anderson (son-in-law Conrad and Julie Gallmeyer). Thanks for your prayers!

...for the grieving. Keep in your thoughts and prayers the family of Janetta Schellhorn (Delores Joens sister), Melvin (Buck) Joens and Sharon Kuhlmann. God bless all our grieving with eternal hope.

...for the courageous, strong and joyful. Remember persons in the military of our congregation – Abby Robinson, Sam Schrage, Charlie Magee, Josh Mixdorf, Aaron Morley, Matthew Paidar and Daniel Rigdon (Kim Ala's nephew). We especially remember those who have given their lives for the nation. We pray for all who serve in public government that we live in a peaceful community. Remember emergency service personnel, those who give varieties of medical care, those who work in agriculture / church servants and all Christian people / teachers and students in Christian learning / persons who work in any education. Pray for our life together in this congregation and for the whole Church in time of transitions and testing.