



## Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost August 29, 2021

*The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.*

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.

**Hymn** "This Is My Father's World"

ELW 824

- 1 This is my Father's world,  
and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.
  
- 3 This is my Father's world;  
oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world;  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

### **The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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.**

### **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.**

### **First Reading: DUETERONOMY 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>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.**

### **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.*

<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>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.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>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.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>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.**

**GOSPEL: MARK 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>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.) <sup>5</sup>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?" <sup>6</sup>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;

<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily** The Rev. Kurt S. Strause

**Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," and the response is "**Hear our prayer.**"

## Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as is 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.**

## 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;

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

## Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW 879

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

### *Refrain*

Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

- 4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

- 5 For each perfect gift of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine,  
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** "Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord"

Robert Lau

**Altar Flowers** given in memory of loved ones by the congregation.

**Sanctuary Candle** given in memory of Patricia Gress by the congregation.

**NOTE** – Please contact Joyce Stoner if you want to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle or Altar Flowers – 717 336-7077. Sundays available.



Michael A. Crowther  
Margaret Elser  
Clyde Showalter  
Betty Hornberger  
Charles Moyer  
Josie Reitz

Alverta Showalter  
Clarice Haws  
Pastor Jim Miller  
Mary Ann Weitzel  
Ella Shirk

Katie Houck  
Sue Kittler  
Katie Mera  
Family of Patricia Gress  
Nancy Kulp  
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)  
Clair Sweigart  
Janice Moyer Kelly  
Josie Reitz  
Judy Sauder  
Pastor Jim Miller  
Debbie Myers  
Lisa Buckles (friend of Sue Ellen Knauer)  
Phyllis Miller (cousin of Jen Weitzel)  
Glenn Beard, Sr.

Sharon Fremont – (friend of Sue Kreitz)  
Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)  
Hunter Leisey  
Susan Levan  
Jean Wolf  
Ashton Faust  
John Frantz  
Earl Myers  
Joan Long  
Margaret Elser  
Shirley Martzall (friend of Ranck family)  
Kelly O'Hara (friend of Jen Weitzel)  
Matt Hollinger (friend of Weitzel Family)  
Marie McQuate  
Janice Ballenger (friend of Connie Taylor)



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** – Our distribution of food continues on an ongoing basis. We specifically are short of canned meat items – except tuna! We have plenty of tuna but could use corned beef, Spam, chicken, canned ham. **Canned fruit**, toilet paper and paper towels (individually wrapped), **pasta (other than macaroni)**, **cereal**, **soups and snacks (including cookies, graham crackers, crackers)** are also in short supply. Watch the newsletter for a more comprehensive list. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support!

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC** – The Annual Church Picnic will be held *September 12<sup>th</sup>* after church. Meal will be served at 11AM. Join us for a delicious pig roast and all the trimmings. Food and drink will be provided. **Bring a dessert to share.** Music will be provided by local DJ. Bring your lawn chair to relax and enjoy! Bocce ball and corn hole will be available.



**FLOWER DELIVERY** –The church needs volunteers to deliver flowers to our sick and shut-ins after our worship service each Sunday. The church secretary, Brenda, will coordinate this effort for the worship team. Please call the church or email Brenda at [secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org) if you are willing to be part of a rotating group of volunteers for this vital outreach. This will begin on September 12<sup>th</sup>. *Thank you for volunteering!*



The Swamp Lutheran Handbell Choir will be starting their 20<sup>th</sup> season of ringing and we are looking for some new recruits to join in the fun! Our first practice/meeting will take place on **Monday, Sept. 13 at 7:30** in the church sanctuary. No experience is necessary. We are happy to work with beginners at all musical levels. Please contact Doug Kulp or any member of the Bell Choir for more information. Hope you can join us as we begin our new season!

**TOUCH A TRUCK**  
SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH  
275 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD, REINHOLDS PA 17569  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 9:30 AM-11:30 AM



COME CLIMB AND EXPLORE VARIOUS TRUCKS AND TRACTORS, AND DOG TRAINING DEMONSTRATION  
BRING A CAN GOOD FOR THE CHURCH'S FOOD PANTRY  
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



**CHOIR REHEARSALS** – Choir rehearsals will begin Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00PM. We will meet weekly and will rehearse in the choir pews in the sanctuary. Please enter by the back door by the church office. Please invite and encourage any new singers to join our group.

**SCHOOL KITS** - We are presently accepting donations of items for school kits through the end of September for this year's LWR school kit project. The items most needed are the **notebooks, rulers, and pens**. No backpacks are needed thanks to Jane! All items are listed below. Donations may be given to Jane Leshner, Denise Null and Connie Taylor. Last year, despite the obstacles, we put together 54 backpacks and delivered to the LWR pick-up site. Thank you to all who donated supplies and a special thanks to Beatty Gress for helping us achieve this amount. Thanks for all the help! While we still have a surplus of pencils, we depleted most of our other supplies last year, so we are starting from "scratch". We appreciate everyone following the guidelines listed below, as Lutheran World Relief will not send anything that does not adhere to these guidelines.

Thanks so much! Debbie Carvell

**70-80** sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8" x 10 ½" – 4 per backpack

30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other side – 1 per backpack

Pencil sharpeners – 1 per backpack

**Blunt** scissors (safety scissors). (They must say this on the packaging) – 1 per backpack

Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers – 5 per backpack

Black or blue ink pens – 5 per backpack

Packs of 16 or 24 crayons – 1 pack per backpack

2 ½" erasers – 1 per backpack

