



**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 19, 2021**

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

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.

Hymn “Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW 781

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father
safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth,
and their sorrows all he knoweth.
- 4 Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy.

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 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

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.

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

¹⁹But 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!"

²⁰But 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.

Second Reading: JAMES 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

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.

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

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

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

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.

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

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?"³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,³⁷"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.

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 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW 815

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth" Anonymous, Central America

Altar Flowers given in memory of Mom by Jennie Weitzel.

Sanctuary Candle given in memory of loved ones 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
Susan Levan
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)
Janice Ballenger (friend of Connie Taylor)

Sharon Fremont – (friend of Sue Kreitz)
Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)

Hunter Leisey
Jean Wolf
Ashton Faust
John Frantz
Edgar Gress
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



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 a need currently for **spaghetti**, toilet paper and **paper towels** (individually wrapped), **soup**, cereal, and snacks (including cookies, graham crackers and crackers). Italics and bold are in dire need currently. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support!

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 if you are willing to be part of a rotating group of volunteers for this vital outreach. This will begin on September 12th. *Thank you for volunteering!*

Congregational Meeting - A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, September 26 to consider extending a call to a new pastor. The meeting will follow immediately after the morning service in which the candidate will preach and lead worship. Biographical information as well as an announcement about an opportunity to meet the candidate ahead of time has been mailed or emailed to all confirmed members of the congregation.

50th ANNIVERSARIES - The church would like to recognize those who are celebrating 50+ wedding anniversaries or 50th anniversary of membership. Please notify the church office by email at secretary@swamplutheran.org or by phone at 717-336-2849 if you fall into one of these categories.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The Altars Where We Worship

Lois Strause will be beginning an Adult Sunday School study on **October 3, 2021 following our worship service**. This will be an in-person class. The study will discuss how we replace our relationship with God, which we call religion, with other idols that are part of our everyday living. The Bible teaches us that we should put righteous living above all other pursuits of the flesh and mind. Together we will consider how we might inadvertently replace God with other idols such as: *Entertainment Sports Consumerism Popular Culture*. Plan to join us on Sunday mornings after the church service.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY FOR FALL

Pastor will begin a zoom Bible study on **Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7PM**, titled; *Lutheranism: A Movement Rooted in Grace*. A proposed outline for the study is:

- Session 1: Where Did We Come From? A Fast History of Christianity from 33 to 1500 AD.
- Session 2: The Reformation: Luther 1517, and ALL That
- Session 3: Theology: The Word of God Deep in the Flesh
- Session 4: Theology: The Heart of the Matter—Justification by Faith.
- Session 5: Lutherans Today: From Europe to North America and beyond.
- Session 6: Where are the Lutherans Headed?

Details for registration link will be on website closer to our start date.

POINSETTIAS and CYCLAMENS

It is that time of the year again to consider your holiday orders for poinsettias and cyclamens. Jodi Showalter (717-413-7149) will be handling the orders. Pricing will not be known until sometime in October. Jodi or the church office should be contacted with questions.

The following information needs to be provided.

NAME _____ Phone Number _____

Poinsettias RED _____ WHITE _____

Cyclamens RED _____ WHITE _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



This Week in the Parish

Monday	6:00PM 7:30PM	PACK 95 Den Meeting Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday	7:00PM	Zoom Bible Study
Wednesday	7:00PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	8:30AM 9:30AM	Worship Congregational Meeting