

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

PRELUDE *All Are Welcome*

Please consider these lyrics as we begin this service with a musical gift offered by Mark.

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*
3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

EvLW # 525 *You Are Holy*

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand. You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord! Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, for in your wisdom you have formed us. You feed the hungry and clothe the naked. **We bless you and praise your name forever.** You set free those who are bound. **We bless you and praise your name forever.** You raise up those whose courage falters. **We bless you and praise your name forever.** You provide for our every need. **Accept our grateful praises.** You have called us from all peoples. **We rejoice and bless your name forever.** You bless your people with peace. **We bless you and praise your loving grace.** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, for in your wisdom you have formed us.

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.**

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.

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 Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON

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.

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

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 54

Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause. Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

For the arrogant have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God.

Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them. I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good. For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

SECOND LESSON

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.

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

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? 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. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. 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.

Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

MARK 9:30-37

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.

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

SERMON

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, **O God, we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, **O God, we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of Life, **O God, we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 723 *Canticle of the Turning*

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*
3. From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*
4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems especially for Beryl, Carol, Daryl, Elethia, Ferolyn, Hans, Jordon, Pat, and those we name quietly in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of compassion, we pray for the young people in every congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to welcome them as they are. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you, 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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

SENDING HYMN

EVLW # 547 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us; your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face -
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

UPCOMING GATHERINGS

- **Sept 21, Tuesday** Mid-week Holy Communion Service in the Library, at 1:30pm.
- **Drop in Bible Study** "Dwelling in the Word" is beginning soon. If you are interested, please let the office know your preferences for day and time.
- **Home Visits** - Pastor Julianne is available for at home visits (outside preferred). Please contact the office to make arrangements.
- **Oct 05, Tuesday** Church Council Meeting 10:00am
- **Oct 12, Tuesday** Worship and Music Meeting 10:00am
- Watch for opportunities to re-connect with others from St. James as we gather in small groups.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Sept 20	2 Kings 5:1-14	James 4:8-17	Psalm 139:1-18
Tue	Sept 21	2 Kings 11:21;12:16	James 5:1-6	Psalm 139:1-18
Wed	Sept 22	Jeremiah 1:4-10	John 8:21-38	Psalm 139:1-18
Thu	Sept 23	Exodus 18:13-27	Acts 4:13-31	Psalm 19:7-14
Fri	Sept 24	Deuteronomy 1:1-18	Acts 12:20-25	Psalm 19:7-14
Sat	Sept 25	Deuteronomy 27:1-10	Matthew 5:13-20	Psalm 19:7-14
Sun	Sept 26	Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	James 5:13-20	Psalm 19:7-14 (8) Mark 9:38-50