

Traditional

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church
Order of Worship
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 12, 2021

Help Our Unbelief

Welcome to all who gather to worship the Lord this day! “The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. . . . The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart” (Psalm 19:7-8, NIV). Welcome to worship, where the Word of God refreshes us.

Please sign your name in the Attendance pad at the end of the pew. If you are a guest, please take one of the visitor bags at the *Welcome Center* counter at the front entrance.

As We Gather



In today’s Readings, Isaiah reminds us of how God’s Word sustains us when we are weary. This is a godly and “Gospel” use of the tongue rather than the ungodly use of the tongue that James writes about in today’s Epistle lesson. When Jesus encounters person possessed by an unclean spirit. The young man’s father is distraught and desperate. The father utters these words: “I believe; help my unbelief!” Jesus does help the man’s unbelief by healing his son. Jesus helps our unbelief as well in all that He does. In His miracles and teaching, suffering and death, resurrection and ascension, Jesus calls us to faith. And He calls us to be His witnesses.

Welcome

Memory Verse of the Month: “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” (James 4:10)

Opening Hymn: “Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure” # 533

Invocation

Pastor: *In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

People: Amen.

Psalm of the Day *Psalm 116:1–9; antiphon: v. 5*

⁵ *Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;*
our God is merciful.

¹ *I love the LORD, because he has heard*
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

² *Because he inclined his ear to me,*
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

³ *The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;*
I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴ *Then I called on the name of the LORD:*
“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

⁵ *Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;*
our God is merciful.

⁶ *The LORD preserves the simple;*
when I was brought low, he saved me.

⁷ *Return, O my soul, to your rest;*
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸ *For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears,*
my feet from stumbling;

⁹ *I will walk before the LORD*
in the land of the living.

⁵ *Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;*
our God is merciful.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: *Despite all of God’s actions on our behalf, we still struggle with sin in our lives. Our tongues still curse. Our feet still stumble. Our ears still listen to lies and vicious gossip. But our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him for restoration, renewal, and forgiveness.*

(Silence for reflection.)

Pastor: *Heavenly Father,*

People: we have sinned against You and our neighbors in what we have said and what we have left unsaid. We have neglected opportunities to love our neighbors. We have stumbled and fallen again and again. We ask that You restore us, renew us, and forgive us on account of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: *Almighty God, in His boundless love sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for our forgiveness and eternal life. Because of Jesus, we are restored, body and soul. Therefore, as a servant of Christ, and by His authority, I announce to you that all of our sins are completely forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise: “In God, My Faithful God” - # 745

Prayer for the Day

Pastor: *Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need, continue to preserve Your Church in safety, govern her by Your goodness, and bless her with Your peace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

People: Amen.

Old Testament: *Isaiah 50:4–10* (God sustains and vindicates His people.)

Pastor: *This is the Word of the Lord*

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: *James 3:1–12* (The tongue is small but powerful in speaking good and evil.)

Pastor: *This is the Word of the Lord*

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: *Mark 9:14–29* (Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy.)

Pastor: *The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.*

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus” - # 729

Sermon: “Lifted Up by the Lord’s Word” by *Pastor Scott Malme*

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Offering: *“Coins for Christ” is an important part of the Mission funding at Pilgrim. Through this program all loose coins in the offering plate are donated to a mission project. During September, “Coins for Christ” is supporting **Orphan Grain Train.***

As the offerings are received, please sign the register in the pews, whether you are a member of Pilgrim Lutheran or a visitor. The person at the end of the pew should start and then pass it along. ***Thank you for making worship with us a priority this Lord’s Day.***

Offering Music: “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful” # 955

Prayers of the Church

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

For pastors, missionaries, teachers, and all who proclaim Your Word, O Lord, that the sinfulness of their tongues may not hinder Your message of grace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: *For all those who celebrate the good news of births and birthdays, weddings and anniversaries, let us pray to the Lord.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: *For all those who grieve especially . . . , that they find hope in the resurrection, which brings us eternal life and defeats the enemy of death, let us pray to the Lord.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: *For all those who govern in this nation and throughout the world, that their tongues would be kept from lying and slander, let us pray to the Lord.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: *For all those who struggle with spiritual oppression, that God would deliver them from evil and restore them body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: *For all those who have wandered from the Church, that the Holy Spirit would call them by the Gospel and gather them back to Your flock, let us pray to the Lord.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: *For all who are sick, injured, and recovering, especially . . . , that God would grant them healing according to His good and gracious will, let us pray to the Lord.*

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: *Lord, we offer all these prayers, knowing that You hear us and bless us with what we need.*

People: Amen.

The 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.

Benediction

Pastor: *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.

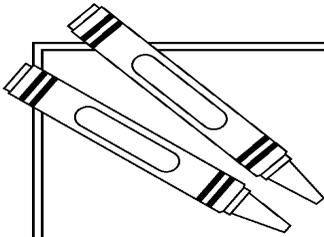
People: Amen.

Pastor: *Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Closing Hymn: "Lord of All Hopefulness" #738





Just for **KIDS**

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

God wants you to be “planted” in His Word and to grow up serving him all your life.

Unscramble each underlined word, and write it in the blanks below.
Use the definitions as clues.

Psalm 1:3 NIV tells us what we should be like:

“He is like a (1) etre (2) dpeltan by (3) smatres of (4) rawte,
which (5) ledsiy its fruit in (6) sonsea and whose (7) afle does not
(8) rithew. Whatever he does (9) spropres.”

1. ___ ___ ___ ___ (a wood plant with one main stem or trunk which has many branches)
2. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (rooted into the ground)
3. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (small rivers)
4. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (a colorless and transparent liquid)
5. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (produces, gives)
6. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (a time of the year)
7. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (flat, thin part of a plant growing from the stem — usually green)
8. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (to dry up or wilt)
9. ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ (succeeds)

Answers: tree, planted, streams, water, yields, season, leaf, wither, prospers

Isaiah 50:4-10

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
⁶ I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
⁷ But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
⁸ He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
⁹ Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.
¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the LORD
and rely on his God.

James 3:1-12

³ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire

the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Mark 9:14-29

¹⁴ And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶ And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." ¹⁹ And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³ And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹ And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."