

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 22, 2024

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***GOD SIGHTINGS**

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new-ness and re - new-al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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 Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 31:10-31

This passage, which ends the book of Proverbs, describes the good wife. She is a supremely capable and hardworking person, who runs the household and also engages in commercial ventures. She cares both for her family and for the poor, and she fears the Lord.

A reading from Proverbs:

¹⁰A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.

¹²She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.

¹³She seeks wool and flax,

and works with willing hands.
¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.
¹⁵She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
¹⁶She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
¹⁷She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
²⁰She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
²²She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
²³Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
²⁹“Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”
³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
³¹Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

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.

A reading from James:

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.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

736

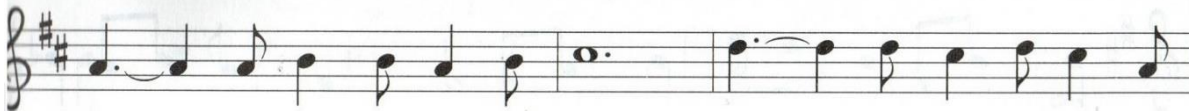
God the Sculptor of the Mountains



1 God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mill-er of the



sand, God the jewel-er of the heav-ens,



God the pot-ter of the land: you are womb of all cre-



a-tion, we are form-less; shape us now.

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Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940

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***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.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹ 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.” 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -



path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: MADELEINE, Donna Kasbohm, b. 1933

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*APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 REQUESTS

PRAYER REFRAIN

v. 1 before, v. 3 after

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For the Wholeness of the Earth



1 We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this
2 We turn our lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our
3 Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to



prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this prayer for the
lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our lives to the
God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the



whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it spin-ning in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

Music: WHOLENESS OF THE EARTH, Bret Hesla

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In God our longing can find rest, for we can bring all our prayers and hopes. Each prayer will end: "Hear us, O God." You are invited to respond: **Your mercy is great.***

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Lord our God, we lift our hearts to you today. Let your word strengthen us in faith, patience, and hope. Be with all those who call upon you and ask for help in our time here on earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heavenly Father, guide our steps and lead us in your perfect will. Bless the work of our hands and open the doors of opportunities and favor. Protect us from every harm and surround us with your peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God, only you through your Spirit can awaken us to help go forward to achieve our goals. Each of us has received help beyond anything we had hoped for or even thought of. We thank you for this present time. The time will come when our hearts will be released, and we can be filled with the life from above which gives us in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City and their pastor, Rev. Paul Busekist. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PRAYER REFRAIN

v. 3 after

ACS 1067

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE

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

OFFERING

736

God the Sculptor of the Mountains



3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the plant - er of the



wheat, God the reap - er of the har - vest,



God the source of all we eat: you are host at ev - 'ry



ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.**

**By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

736

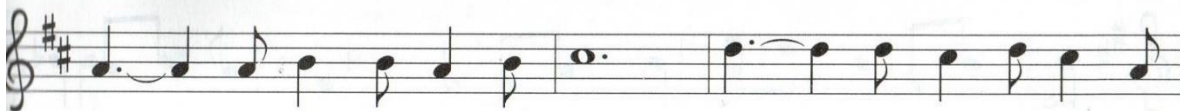
God the Sculptor of the Mountains



4 God the un - ex-pect-ed in - fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined



youth, God the ta - ble-turn - ing proph - et,



God the re - sur-rect - ed truth: you are pres - ent ev - 'ry



mo - ment, we are search-ing; meet us now.

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Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

***COMMUNION**

This is God's table. All are welcome. Please take a small cup as you come forward and find a space around the altar rail. Non-alcoholic grape juice is in the prefilled glasses and there is gluten-free bread available. If you do not wish to commune, you are still invited forward for a blessing. If it is easier to remain in your seat for communion, please let the usher know and we will bring communion to you.

***TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Holy God,

**you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.**

**Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

***BLESSING**

God all mighty,

God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

Amen.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2055 E. Columbia Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49014
269-963-5356

Welcome! We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are what strengthen the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world. Assisting with worship today:

Pastor	Rev. Kjersten Sullivan
Assisting Minister	Linda Hermann
Musician/Choir Director	Ronald Cung
Sound Board	Ellis Cutler
Streaming	Travis Sullivan
Prayers	Linda Hermann

Contact info:

Kjersten Sullivan, Pastor

Cell: 805-458-6074

Email: pastor@tlcbattlecreek.org

Church Office

Office: 269-963-5356

Sermon transcripts can be found at: www.tlcbattlecreek.org/sermons

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY
September 22-29, 2024

TODAY: 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour and Dedication of the Sullivan Memorial Garden

MONDAY:

TUESDAY: 1:00pm Facebook Live Bible Chat | 7pm Council Mtg.

WEDNESDAY: 10:30am Bible Chat | 5:30pm Bible Chat | 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY: 5pm Woman's Co-op Gala @ Firekeepers

NEXT SUNDAY: 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour | 3pm CROP Walk (Registration starts @ 2pm)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing Pastor Kjersten. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed.

September 15: Connie – Dick Sheffer; Janelle – Rod Tungate; Kathy – healing prayers for surgery; Jeff – family of Kathleen Moore; Tresa – travel safety as she travels to Luther Seminary this week; Tish – Tresa’s son, Daniel at army training; Gloria – John’s brother Mike; Eileen – Teresa.

September 1: Connie – Cousin Rosanne; Joyce – Grandson Jacob; Tresa – thanksgiving for God’s sustaining hope and representatives who return phone calls; Janelle – Rod Tungate; Anderts – Grandnephew Colton.

August 25: Joann – Steve and Debbie, for healing, for Alex, Haley, and Monty for healing; Janelle – Rod Tungate, Tracy Barons, Chelsea and her husband; Tresa – continued prayers for Daniel and his unit.

SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

Today in worship we hold in prayer our brothers and sisters at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City, and their pastor, Rev. Paul Busekist. Learn more about their ministry at: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/>.

Our prayer partner for next week is Augustana Lutheran Church in Tustin, and their pastor, Rev. Sharon Van Dam. Learn more about their ministry at: <https://www.augustanatustin.com/>.