



*“<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.”*

*Mark 7: 14-15*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 2, 2018**

PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

[www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)

Phone: 724-625-1830

email: [office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)

Pastor's cell: 412-585-1628

Pastor's email: [pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnchurchmars.org)

Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 2, 2018**

*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." Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We, having been 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.*

*Today we commemorate Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872. Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.*

**PRELUDE:** *Sei Lob Und Her Dem Hochsten Gut* – J. L. Krebs

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
full of compassion and mercy,  
abounding in steadfast love.

**Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,  
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Eternal God our creator,  
**In you we live and move and have our being.**  
**look upon us, your children,**  
**the work of your hands.**  
**Forgive us all our offenses,**  
**and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.**  
**By your grace draw us near to you,**  
**our refuge and our strength;**  
**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit given to us.  
In the mercy of almighty God,  
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;  
and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**


**\*GATHERING HYMN #824: *This is My Father's World***

**\*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.**

**\*KYRIE**


*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.




1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord. let us pray to the Lord.

**\*THIS IS THE FEAST**

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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: Deuteronomy 4: 1–2, 6-9**

A reading from Deuteronomy..

*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.**

## **PSALM 15**

*All sing in unison.*

**1. Lord, who may dwell within your house  
Or on your holy hill?**

**Those who do good and speak the truth,  
Whose lives are blameless still,**

**2. Who have no guile upon their tongues  
Nor harm their neighbor's life,  
But honor those who fear the Lord**

**And turn away from strife,**

**3. Who do no wrong, but keep their word  
And seek no bribe or gain;  
All those who do such things shall live  
And safe from harm remain.**

## **SECOND READING: James 1:17-27**

A reading from James.

*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 ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL READING: 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,

<sup>6</sup>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>7</sup>

<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.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #325: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me***

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray.

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

Gracious God, we pray for all those who labor to bear your word into the world by welcoming the stranger, healing the sick, and caring for the orphan. Embolden your church to take up the cross against the powers of oppression and death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, we pray for the earth. Keep watch over those who rescue endangered species and repair scorched landscapes. Make us good stewards of creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we pray for the nations of the world, for governments, leaders, and citizens. Watch over refugees and immigrants. Inspire us to welcome them with glad hearts when they arrive on our shores and in our neighborhoods. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you call us to serve our neighbors. Bless our vocations as we fill the cups of the thirsty, the plates of the hungry, and the hearts of the lonely. Make our presence your presence for all who sorrow, especially Jean, Karen, Amy, Anne, Cindy, Harry, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Frieda, Kim, Jeff, Bill, Francis & Grace, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, at tables around the world, through story and meal, strangers become guests and guests become friends. Embolden this congregation to always extend the wide-armed welcome you extend to us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses whose lives inspire us to loving service including Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, renewer of the church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM – *We Have Been Told***

#### *We Have Been Told*

We have been told, we've seen his face, and heard his voice alive in our hearts; "Live in my love with all your heart, as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. I am the vine, you are the branches, and all who live in me will bear great fruit."

We have been told, we've seen his face, and heard his voice alive in our hearts; "Live in my love with all your heart, as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. You are my friends, if you keep my commands, no longer slaves, I call you friends."

We have been told, we've seen his face, and heard his voice alive in our hearts; "Live in my love with all your heart, as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. No greater love is there than this: to lay down one's life, for a friend."

We have been told, we've seen his face, and heard his voice alive in our hearts; "Live in my love with all your heart, as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you."

### **\*OFFERTORY HYMN #186: *Create in Me a Clean Heart***

*Please stand for the hymn.*

#### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

you open wide your hand

and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us.

Open our hands to receive it.

Open our hearts to embrace it.

Open our lives to live it.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **\*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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension,  
 we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

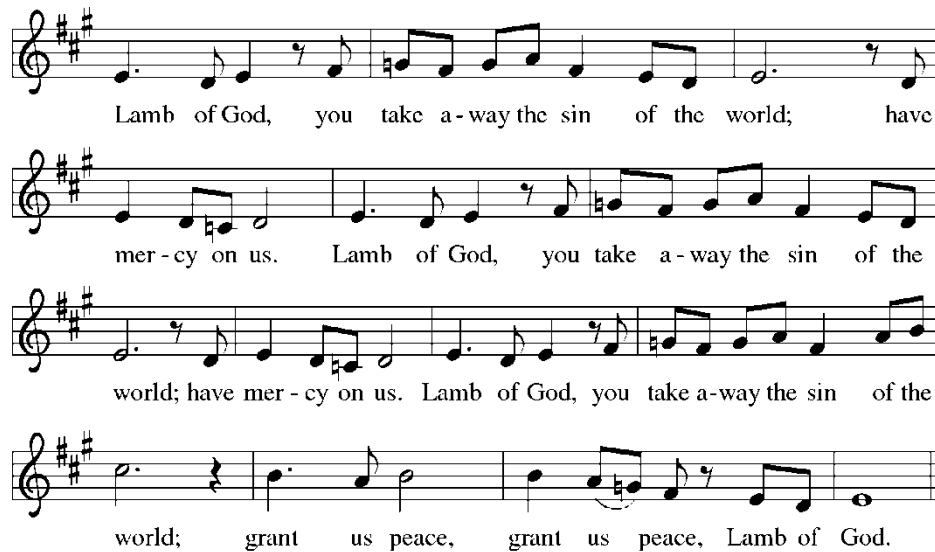
*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available.*

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God***



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

**\*COMMUNION HYMN #512: *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

**Amen.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,  
you have given us not only this bread and cup,  
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

Filled again by these signs of your grace,  
may we hunger for your reign of justice,  
may we thirst for your way of peace,  
for you are Lord forevermore.

**Amen.**

## AFFIRMATION OF VOCATION

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly with these or similar words:*

Dear Christian friends:  
Baptized into the priesthood of Christ,  
we are all called by the Holy Spirit  
to offer ourselves to the Lord of all creation  
in thanksgiving for all that God has done and continues to do for us.  
It is our privilege to affirm those who are endeavoring  
to carry out their vocation as Christians in the world.

*A representative of the congregations says:*

Through holy baptism God has set us free from sin  
and made us members of the priesthood we share in Christ Jesus.  
Through word and sacrament we have been nurtured in faith,  
that we may give praise to God  
and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

*The presiding minister addresses those affirming their vocation:*

People of God, both your work and your rest are in God.  
Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
in gratitude to God and in service to others,  
at morning and evening, at work and at play,  
all the days of your life?

**Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Let us pray,  
Almighty God,  
by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants  
into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name.  
Give them courage, patience, and vision;  
and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation  
of witness to the world and of service to others;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## BLESSING

*The assisting minister addresses the assembly with these or similar words:*

Go out into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint-hearted;  
support the weak;  
help the suffering;  
honor all people;  
love and serve our God,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*The presiding minister blesses the assembly:*

The almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*SENDING SONG #731: *Earth and All Stars!***

**POSTLUDE: *Ach Gott, Erhor Mein Seufzen Und Wehklagen* – J. G. Walther**

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**The flowers this week are given by Janet Senka in memory of her parents, John & Virginia Closshey.**

**9:00 am**

**Assisting Minister: Clarence Strabel/Martha Ward**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher: Keith Cardinal**

**Attendance Last Week: 52**

**Attendance Last Year: 66**

**Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,088.92**

**Last Week's General Giving: \$ 1,505.37**

**YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 105,023.38**

**Last Week's Designated Giving: \$ 109.23**

**YTD Actual Expense: \$ 111,829.57**

**2018 YTD General Giving: \$ 95,910.00**

**2018 YTD Designated Giving: \$ 14,016.93**

**2018 YTD Receipts: \$ 109,926.93**

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