 **Kerkhoven Lutheran Church**

 **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Living and trusting in god’s amazing grace we welcome all to worship, learn and serve in celebration of Christ’s love.

**The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 22, 2021 9:00 AM**

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” (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were 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.

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 94**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN “My God How Wonderful Thou Art!” ELW # 863**

 1 My God, how wonderful thou art,

 thy majesty how bright!

 How beautiful thy mercy seat

 in depths of burning light!

 2 How wonderful, how beautiful

 the sight of thee must be--

 thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r,

 and awesome purity!

 3 No earthly father loves like thee;

 no mother, e'er so mild,

 bears and forbears as thou hast done

 with me, thy sinful child.

 4 Yet I may love thee too, O Lord,

 almighty as thou art,

 for thou hast stooped to ask of me

 the love of my poor heart.

 5 My God, how wonderful thou art,

 thou everlasting friend!

 On thee I stay my trusting heart

 till faith in vision end.

 Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

**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**

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.**

**WORD**

### **First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

*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.*

1So 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. 2You 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.
  6You 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!” 7For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? 8And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?
  9But 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 Reading Responsively**

1Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
 Who may abide upon your holy hill?
2**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,**
 **who speak the truth from their heart;**

3they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
 they do not cast discredit up on a neighbor.
4**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.**
 **They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

5They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

**Second Reading: James 1:17-27**

*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.*

17Every 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. 18In 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.

19You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. 21Therefore 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.
  22But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25But 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.
  26If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27Religion 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 “Alleluia” ELW p. 142**

### **Gospel:  Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

*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.*

1Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], 2they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. 3(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; 4and 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.) 5So 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?” 6He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
 ‘This people honors me with their lips,
  but their hearts are far from me;
 7in vain do they worship me,
  teaching human precepts as doctrines.’
8You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”
  14Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”
  21For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, 22adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

### The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON Kristy Nystrom**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil” ELW # 512**

 Lord, let my heart be good soil,

 open to the seed of your word.

 Lord, let my heart be good soil,

 where love can grow and peace is understood.

 When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

 When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

 When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

 Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

 Lord, let my heart be good soil.

 Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

 Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**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.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING HYMN “This is My Father’s World” ELW# 824**

 Offering plates will be brought to the altar during hymn.

 1 This is my Father's world,

 and to my list'ning ears

 all nature sings, and round me rings

 the music of the spheres.

 This is my Father's world;

 I rest me in the thought

 of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;

 his hand the wonders wrought.

 2 This is my Father's world;

 the birds their carols raise;

 the morning light, the lily white,

 declare their maker's praise.

 This is my Father's world;

 he shines in all that's fair.

 In the rustling grass I hear him pass;

 he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

 3 This is my Father's world;

 oh, let me not forget

 that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,

 God is the ruler yet.

 This is my Father's world;

 why should my heart be sad?

 The Lord is king, let heaven ring;

 God reigns, let earth be glad!

 Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for individuals in positions of authority (*national and local leaders may be named*). Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year (*students, teachers, or others may be named here*). Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with our heart. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with them in glory. 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**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “For the Beauty of the Earth”**  **ELW # 879**

 1 For the beauty of the earth,

 for the beauty of the skies,

 for the love which from our birth

 over and around us lies:

 *Refrain Christ, our God, to thee we raise*

 this our sacrifice of praise.

 2 For the wonder of each hour

 of the day and of the night,

 hill and vale and tree and flow'r,

 sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

 3 For the joy of ear and eye,

 for the heart and mind's delight,

 for the mystic harmony

 linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain*

 4 For the joy of human love,

 brother, sister, parent, child,

 friends on earth and friends above;

 for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

 5 For each perfect gift of thine,

 peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

 for thyself, best gift divine,

 to our world so freely giv'n: Refrain

 Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Worship Leader – Kristy Nystrom

Musicians – Alison Nelson

Lector – Corbin Nystrom

Ushers – Nystrom Family

Acolytes – Corbin Nystrom

Greeter- Ann Hanson

***PRAYER CONCERNS:*** *(Periodically these prayer concerns will be moved to the prayer concerns list in the newsletter)* Kathy Schol, Dennis Doering, Donna Baker, Wally and Phyllis Loven, Calvin Carls, Pastor Bill Miller

**Stewardship Snippet:**  **The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost , August 29, 2021**

**James 1:17 –** Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.

*Make a list of the blessings in your life. Go ahead! These are gifts to you from God, the source of all. Now review the list and pray for each, “I thank God for ….” Do this every day and see how you feel.*

*--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.*

**Fellowship Hour:** Please join us for coffee and fellowship this morning in the parish hall following worship services.

**Luther League:** Letters are being sent to all Luther League families with information on the schedule and calendar for coffee fellowship serving and also an invitation to attend the KLC Luther League Kickoff on Sunday, September 12, 2021 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Plans are for a kickball game at Centennial Park, grilling together for lunch and to do some planning for the year ahead. Bring your ideas of what you would like to do for the upcoming year. Families are also invited to join in the fun and fellowship.

**Sunday School:** The Board of Christian Education is actively seeking teachers for this year's Sunday School classes, which will begin on Sunday, Sept. 12th. Teachers will work in teams, have reasonably sized classes of combined grade levels, and teach with user-friendly, printed curriculum. You do not need to be a Bible expert, parent, or classroom teacher to get involved! All teachers will be invited to a teacher meeting prior to the start of Sunday School. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity and contact any board member to learn more.

**Confirmation Information:** Plans are in place for the beginning of Confirmation. Letters were mailed to parents of all confirmands on our current membership list. If you did not receive a letter or are interested in having your child attend KLC confirmation please contact the church office.

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is in need or 2 additional people to work with another team member to prepare the sanctuary for worship each week. For more information contact Barb Norton: barb@theinwell.com or 320-894-2128. Thank you.

**Next Sunday, September 5, 2021**: **The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion.

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

**KLC Worship Services are also available for viewing on YouTube!**

**KLC Office Hours for the Week of August 30 – September 3:** Church office hour will be Monday church office closed, Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 – 3:00 pm. The church office is closed on Friday. If you have questions or need assistance please call: Ann Hanson – 320-894-4464.

**Thank You:**  Thank you to the people who delivered the Meals on Wheels this month: Kay Brendemuehl, Jean Lilly, Sandy Rothers and Ann Hanson. We will next be responsible for the delivery of these meals in December.

**WELCA Quilting:** Quilting continues each Wednesday 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Masks and social distancing protocols will be followed. There will be a catered noon luncheon with a free will donation each week.

**Sunday Musicians:** Do you play the piano or organ? Would you be interested in helping to lead our congregation’s Sunday morning worship music? We are looking for musician to substitute on Sunday mornings when neither Alison nor Mariah are able to be here. KLC does pay $30 per service for leading worship. If you would like to be put on a list of people who would be interested in filling in when needed. Please let the church office know or contact a member of the KLC Board of Worship and Witness. Thank you.

**Let Us Know:** If you have a prayer request to be **added or removed** from the KLC prayer list, please notify the church office. kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com or 320-264-2823.

**Stay In Touch:** If you have not been receiving bulletins, newsletters or prayer requests and would like to, please contact the church office with your information. kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com or 320-264-2823

**KLC Website:** We again have a website. It can be found at <https://www.kerkhovenlutheranchurch.com/>

**On-Line Giving:** It is now possible to give your offering or a donation to KLC on-line at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> This link will now be available on our Kerkhoven Lutheran Facebook page and is available on our new website (see link above).

**At the Lake This Summer:** Supporting our summer ministries and mission is only a click away. We offer convenient online giving, so you never have to worry about not attending worship at home. You can make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts – a great option if you will be traveling during the summer months. Get started by visiting our online donation page at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> or the KLC website at <https://www.kerkhovenlutheranchurch.com/> where you can keep up on all the news and events happening at KLC.

**Food and Fun:** Thursday Food and Fun will be having Coffee and Cookies on Thursday, Sept 9 at the Kerkhoven Civic Center. Feel free to bring some bars or quick bread to pass. Don't forget to tell your neighbors, bring a friend and see you there!

 **KLC Executive Board** **Board of Christian Education**

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