 **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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 19, 2021 9:00 AM**

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**

**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 “Dearest Jesus, At Your Word” ELW #581**

1 Dearest Jesus, at your word

 we have come again to hear you;

 let our thoughts and hearts be stirred

 and in glowing faith be near you

 as the promises here given

 draw us wholly up to heaven.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight

 lie in deepest darkness shrouded

 till your Spirit breaks the night,

 filling us with light unclouded.

 All good thoughts and all good living

 come but by your gracious giving.

3 Radiance of God's glory bright,

 Light of light from God proceeding,

 Jesus, send your blessed light;

 help our hearing, speaking, heeding,

 that our prayers and songs may please you,

 as with grateful hearts we praise you.

4 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,

 praise to you and adoration!

 Grant us what we need the most:

 all your gospel's consolation

 while we here on earth await you,

 till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch,* Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

**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, 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.**

**WORD**

### **First Reading: 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.*

18It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
  then you showed me their evil deeds.
 19But 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!”
 20But 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.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 54 Reading Responsively**

### 1Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might. **2Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.**

###  3For the insolent have risen against me, the ruthless seek my life; they do not set God before them.

###  **4But surely, God is my helper; the LORD is the upholder of my life.**

### 5He will repay my enemies for their evil. In your faithfulness, put an end to them. **6With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

### 7For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

### **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.*

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.

### 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. 8Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia” ELW p. 142**

### **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.

### 30They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; 31for 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, 37Whoever 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**   **WHO IS THE GREATEST? Pastor Tim Larson**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” ELW # 732**

##### Refrain Jesu, Jesu,

 fill us with your love,

 show us how to serve

the neighbors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends,

 silently washes their feet,

 master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*

2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor,

 varied in color and race,

 neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain*

3 These are the ones we will serve,

 these are the ones we will love;

 all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*

4 Kneel at the feet of our friends,

 silently washing their feet:

 this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

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**apostles’ creed elw p. 105**

**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.**

**OFFERING INTERLUDE**

**OFFERTORY “As the Grains of Wheat”** **ELW# 465**

Offering plates will be brought to the altar during hymn

*Refrain* As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill

 were gathered into one to become our bread;

 so may all your people from all the ends of earth

 be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,

 may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come

 when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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**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.*

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 (*especially*). 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 bleak. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today (*especially*). 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**

**MEAL**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND 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.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS:**

 **“Let Us Break Bread Together” ELW # 471**

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;

 let us break bread together on our knees.

*Refrain*  When I fall on my knees,

 with my face to the rising sun,

 O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;

 let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;

 let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

 **“Shall We Gather at the River” ELW # 423**

1 Shall we gather at the river,

 where bright angel feet have trod,

 with its crystal tide forever

 flowing by the throne of God?

*Refrain* Yes, we'll gather at the river,

 the beautiful, the beautiful river;

 gather with the saints at the river

 that flows by the throne of God.

2 On the margin of the river,

 washing up its silver spray,

 we will walk and worship ever,

 all the happy golden day. *Refrain*

3 Ere we reach the shining river,

 lay we ev'ry burden down;

 grace our spirits will deliver,

 and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,

 soon our pilgrimage will cease;

 soon our happy hearts will quiver

 with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

 **“For the Bread Which You Have Broken” ELW # 494**

1 For the bread which you have broken,

 for the wine which you have poured,

 for the words which you have spoken,

 now we give you thanks, O Lord.

2 By this promise that you love us,

 by your gift of peace restored,

 by your call to heav'n above us,

 hallow all our lives, O Lord.

3 With the saints who now adore you,

 seated at the heav'nly board,

 may the church still waiting for you

 keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

4 In your service, Lord, defend us;

 in our hearts keep watch and ward;

 in the world to which you send us

 let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.

Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us

through the healing power of this gift of life;

and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us,

through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love

toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

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

**SENDING SONG “All Depends on Our Possessing”**  **vs. 1,3,5 ELW # 674**

1 All depends on our possessing

 God's free grace and constant blessing,

 though all earthly wealth depart.

 They who trust with faith unshaken

 by their God are not forsaken

 and will keep a dauntless heart.

3 When with sorrow I am stricken,

 hope my heart anew will quicken,

 all my longing shall be stilled.

 To your lovingkindness tender

 all my being I surrender:

 Lord, on you alone I build.

 5 If on earth my days should lengthen,

 God, my weary soul still strengthen;

 all my trust in you I place.

 Earthly wealth is not abiding;

 like a stream away it's gliding;

 safe I anchor in your grace.

Text*: Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Pastor – Timothy P. Larson

Musicians – Alison Nelson & Mariah Rudningen

Lector – Eldon Hauge

Ushers – Eldon and Marlene Hauge

Acolytes – Holtkamp Family

Greeter- Ann Hanson

***PRAYER CONCERNS:*** *(Periodically these prayer concerns will be moved to the prayer concerns list in the newsletter)* Kathy Schol, Dennis Doering, Calvin Carls

**Stewardship Snippet:**  **The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost , James 4:1, 2 –** Those conflicts and disputes among you … 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.

*James puts his finger on the pulse of human misery. We drive ourselves crazy by craving the things we don’t have and envying those who have more than we do! Spiritual maturity and practicing steward/discipleship help bring us sanity.*

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

**Memorial for Pastor Bill: “A Grateful Congregation Remembers”** Today, at the bottom of the stairs, you will find an offering plate for your memorial donations and a card to add your signatures, as we “a grateful congregation” remember Pastor Bill’s years of faithful service here at KLC. We will add these memorial donations and wishes to the memorial that the KLC church council voted to send to the Miller family to be added to the scholarship fund, in Pastor bill’s name, set up at Peace Lutheran to be used for persons who elect to go into the ministry as a second career.

**Thank You:** We are very grateful for everyone who brought their coins and other offerings last Sunday for the noisy offering. The noisy offering for September was designated for the KMS Backpack project and the total amount of that offering was $833.94.

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

**Happy Birthday:** Happy Birthday to Dennis Anderson. Dennis’ birthday was September 16 and was inadvertently missed in the birthday list in the newsletter.

**This Week . . .**

 **Wednesday, September 22**

6:00 pm Gr. 6-8 Confirmation

 7:00 pm Gr. 9-10 Confirmation

 8:00 pm Gr. 11 Confirmation

**Next Sunday, September 26, 2021**: **The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 am Worship Service. Service is both in person and Live Streamed

10:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall – birthday cake and ice cream for Christopher Voss

**Birthday Reception:** Next Sunday, September 26, you are invited to join us for coffee, cake and ice cream following the morning worship service to celebrate Christopher Voss’ 31st birthday.

**Thank You:** Thank you to Donnie Lottman and Sandy Rothers who helped unload the food pallets for the backpack program also thank you to Sandy Rothers for helping deliver the senior food boxes.

**KMS Backpack Program:** We will begin packing the food bags for the backpack program on Thursday, September 23, at 8:30 am in the KLC Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help with this service project please come to the church at that time. This being the beginning of a school year our account for purchasing food needs some additional donations. Checks can be made out to KLC with a memo donation: KMS Backpacks. You can now donate on line <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> This link is available on our Kerkhoven Lutheran Facebook page and also is available on our website <https://www.kerkhovenlutheranchurch.com/>

**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.

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

**KLC Office Hours for the Week of September 20 – September 24:** Church office hour will be Monday 10:00 – 4:00 pm, Tuesday -Thursday 9:00 -3:00. The church office is closed on Friday. If you have questions or need assistance please call: Ann Hanson – 320-894-4464, if no answer please leave a message or send a text.

**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 $50 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.

**Fellowship Hour:** We are grateful to the KLC youth and their families who have the task of bringing coffee treats each Sunday, during the school year. There are times when you may have a special family milestone that you would like to recognize by bringing fellowship treats. Please make sure that you either let the church office or one of the Luther League advisors know in plenty of time to alert the serving group for that week so they know that they do not need to bring the treats. They are still willing to help serve if that is the families wish. 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).

**Opportunity for Textile Recycling:** A new opportunity to recycle items that would normally be thrown into a landfill is now available in our area. The following items can be either brought to Cornerstone Construction, 1020 N Hwy 71, across from the Flags of Honor, on Wednesdays, anytime from around 9:30 am – 3:00 pm. Bring to North overhead door, box is to the immediate left. Textile items (fabric material) includes clothing, bedding, towels, pillows, curtain, tablecloths etc. Items need to be laundered, but can be stained, or torn. They should not have been used with chemicals such as gasoline or kerosene. No purses, belts or shoes (shoes can be donated to the Lions). These items can also be dropped off with Bonnie Kluver (blkluver@tds.net).

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