



## THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 26, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Someone is casting out demons in Jesus' name who isn't part of Jesus' own circle, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in His name, even*

*when it is not under His control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.*

### ✠ GATHERING ✠

OPENING HYMN

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

#508 (grn)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we begin.*

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P. Gracious God,

C. we confess that we have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. We have turned away from You. We have not kept Your commandments. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have neglected the poor, and we have not welcomed all people in Your name. Forgive our sin, increase our faith, strengthen us in service, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

P. God, Who is rich in mercy . . . of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GREETING

P. Holy people of God, called through the gospel of Christ, enlightened by the Spirit: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C. And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*Glory to God*

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Generous God, Your Son gave His life that we might come to peace with You. Give us a share of Your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING: Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. While in the wilderness, God provides sustenance as manna, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders in order to provide leadership for the people, yet complaints are heard when two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have You treated Your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child,' to the land that You promised on oath to their ancestors? <sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If this is the way You are going to treat me, put me to death at once — if I have found favor in Your sight — and do not let me see my misery."

<sup>16</sup>So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. <sup>24</sup>So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup>Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." <sup>28</sup>And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" <sup>29</sup>But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, and that the LORD would put His spirit on them!"

- L. The Word of the Lord.
- C. Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 19:7–14**

*The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes*



- <sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the innocent.
- <sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | jice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.
- <sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.
- <sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.
- <sup>11</sup>By them also is Your ser- | vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is | great reward.
- <sup>12</sup>Who can tell how often | he offends?  
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.
- <sup>13</sup>Above all, keep Your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get  
dominion | over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.
- <sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
acceptable | in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.

**SECOND READING: James 5:13–20**

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

<sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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**HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 9:38–50**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches His disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in My name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

<sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

*God of Grace, and God of Glory*

#415 (grn)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✠ PRAYER ✠

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Re - mem - ber and re - jice, re - newed by floods of grace.  
God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.  
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P. ... Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

P. God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angel accompany you; and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

#259 (grn)

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

## THOSE WHO SERVE:

Ministers: All the People of God

Musician: Terry Dybsetter

Camera: Josh Sumption

Acolytes: Haley Noyes & Lillie Wollum

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Reader: James Kamrath

Projection: Sara Wollum

Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason & Jerome Bruns

### How to reach us:

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### September 19, 2021

General: \$1,204.50 (\$414.50 received through eGiving)



The attached QR Code can be used to directly access the online giving form for Bethel Lutheran.

Just one way of our continuing effort to modernize so you can give conveniently to Bethel.



Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson, Bill and Karen Pohlen,  
Carol Moon, Kendon Knutson

## What to Leave Behind

If you were stranded on a desert island, what five items would you want to have with you? Or if you only had a minute to grab one possession before leaving the rest behind, what would you take? These kinds of thought experiments invite us to clarify what's most important to us while reminding us that, frankly, we have a lot of things we could probably do without.

In today's gospel, Jesus challenges us to take a similar look at ourselves. What parts of ourselves do we need to leave behind as we follow Christ? Maybe it's our perfectionism or our need for control. Maybe it's our desire to escape through addictions or distractions. Maybe it's our harsh judgments about ourselves or others or a broken image of ourselves. Whatever our stumbling block is, Jesus calls us to leave it behind.

Yet, the gruesomeness of Jesus' images—leaving behind body parts—suggests He understands that this isn't easy work. Often our most harmful patterns and behaviors are the hardest to leave behind, because in some way we brought them into our lives to protect us from what scared us the most about ourselves and the world around us. Jesus stands with us to give us courage to look at ourselves fully as we are. He looks at us not with judgment but with love and grace. He invites us to find in Him a new source of comfort and security, to let go of our old selves and cling to Him and to His cross.

When we take up this cross, Jesus will provide everything else that we need for the journey as His followers—strength and courage, endurance and patience, hope and love. Today in this Christian assembly, we walk through this journey together, encouraging one another with words of peace and feeding one another with Christ's own body and blood given for us.

### Upcoming Commemorations

#### Michael and All Angels

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

#### Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.