



Lutheran Church of the Cross

PO Box 612, Mansfield, PA 16933

Service of Word and Sacrament

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 23rd, 2018**



Minister:

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Web Site: www.lutheranchurchotc.org

We are a member congregation of the:



A SPECIAL WELCOME!

We welcome you our friends in the name of our
Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ to

Lutheran Church of the Cross

where God's name is honored, God's word is
heard, and God's presence made real and the
Cross of Christ lifted high. Here may the
sorrowing find comfort; the weary find rest;
sinners find forgiveness; the troubled experience
peace; the stranger needed friends; and to all
people: God's abiding love.

Let's enter our worship in Silent Prayer

Our Mission Statement

We the people of Lutheran Church of the

Cross:

Are united together in Christ,

Reaching souls with the Gospel Message,

Growing, learning, by offering services that

equips for service. Growing together in our

spiritual lives, Encouraging each other,

Looking ahead to Eternity.

Based on Matthew 28

Opening Thoughts

Idolatry, disobedience, and pride run deep amongst human beings. The prophets of old warned God's people to be humble and meek before Him. As the disciples argued among themselves over which of them was greatest, Jesus interjected the very image of greatness: a little child whom he pulled onto his lap. To be great in the kingdom is to put oneself last while serving and promoting others to be first.

Our Service starts on page 21 of the

Reclaim: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and

Home, with the brief order of

Confession and Forgiveness.

Opening Words

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Hymn # 232

He Abides

Red Book

Kyrie Eleison page 22

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS page 23 and 24

SALUTATION page 24

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. The Lord be with you. C. And also with you.

Let us Pray. C. Direct our hearts, O Lord, by

your merciful reign, because without your help

it is impossible to please you. Grant this, we

pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the

Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Gelasian Sacramentary, 7th Century)

The FIRST LESSON is from chapter 11 of Jeremiah

First Lesson:

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Judah Breaks the Covenant

The Lord revealed to Jeremiah the truth of the abandonment of the covenant law by the house of Judah. Idolatry plagued God's chosen people. God gave Jeremiah the wisdom and understanding he needed to prophesy to the exiles. His message was "Return to obedience to the Lord," even as Jeremiah's own people plotted to kill him for speaking God's Word. It can be a dangerous business to proclaim the Word.

Jeremiah 11:18-20 (NKJV)

18 Now the LORD gave me knowledge *of it*, and I know *it*; for You showed me their doings.

19 But I *was* like a docile lamb brought to the slaughter; and I did not know that they had devised schemes against me, *saying*, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be remembered no more."

20 But, O LORD of hosts, You who judge righteously, Testing the mind and the heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them, For to You I have revealed my cause.

Here ends the reading." C Thanks be to God

PSALMODY

Psalm 54

Defend My Cause

The psalmist sang of God's protection against his foes in this imprecatory psalm. Enemies have been thwarted, his life has been saved; God is his faithful helper..

Psalm 54:1-7 (NKJV)

1 Save me, O God, by Your name, And vindicate me by Your strength.

2 Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth.

3 For strangers have risen up against me, And oppressors have sought after my life; They have not set God before them. Selah

4 Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is with those who uphold my life.

5 He will repay my enemies for their evil. Cut them off in Your truth.

6 I will freely sacrifice to You; I will praise Your name, O LORD, for *it is good*.

7 For He has delivered me out of all trouble; And my eye has seen *its desire* upon my enemies.

The SECOND LESSON

is from chapter 3 and 4 of James

Second Lesson:

James 3:13—4:10

The Dangers of Coveting

James' words in this section of the letter are especially harsh to his intended audience, the twelve tribes of the diaspora (James 1:1). He chastised them for their covetous behavior, and criticized them for jealousy and vanity. They considered themselves wise, but were living unrighteously, fighting and quarreling with one another rather than being humble servants of the Lord.

James 3:13-18 (NKJV)

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing *are there*.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace
by those who make peace.

James 4:1-10 (NKJV)

1 Where do wars and fights *come* from among you? **Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?**

2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "**God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.**"

7 Therefore submit to God.

Resist the devil
and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God
and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners;
and purify *your* hearts,
you double-minded.

9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Here ends the reading" C Thanks be to God

The Hallelujah Page 25

The GOSPEL LESSON
is from chapter 9 of St. Mark

Glorv be to You, O Lord

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 9:30-37

To Receive a Child is to Receive Jesus

The disciples argued about who was the greatest as they travelled through Galilee. Jesus asked them what they were worried about only to learn that the topic of debate was their own status in relation to him. Jesus announced to them that the greatest are actually the last in the kingdom, pointing to children as the prime example.

Mark 9:30-37 (NKJV)

30 Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. 31 For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

32 But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.

33 Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?"

34 But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.

35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

36 Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them,

37 "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

The Gospel of the Lord"

C. Praise be to You, O Lord

The SERMON Pastor Forsythe
"What Will it Take?
For Us To Realize?"

How God Wants?
Us to Live For Him?"

The APOSTLES' CREED page 28

Sermon Notes:

Think about the following note:

Jesus spoke of real justice too
when he said that such evildoers
would not escape the divine
sentence of hell.

Believers Must Die to Sin, and Live to God

This shows us the necessity of holiness.

THE TRUE WAY REQUIRES ACTION

"Great Faith leads to results"

Repentance is key to THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

To know what Spiritual Formation is all about in our lives. It happens when we say yes to God!

The First Lesson Go to page 2

- (1) Are we captive to sin?
- (2) Idolatry plagued God's chosen people
- (3) What are the IDOLS we are KEEPING

The Psalm Reading

Our God is an AWESOME GOD No. 23.

God takes care of His PEOPLE

"TO BE FREED FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN IS
REAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN." FOR THAT REASON
WE CAN DO THE FOLLOWING.

We are to be a Praising PEOPLE OF GOD
We are to be a Rejoicing PEOPLE OF GOD
We are to be a JOYFUL PEOPLE OF GOD
We are to be a PRAYING PEOPLE OF GOD
We are to be a MINISTERING PEOPLE FOR GOD

Psalm 54:2 Hear my prayer, O God;

Give ear to the words of my mouth.

- (1) Obedience to God's will and Prayer
- (2) The Lord does hear the prayers of the Christian and also the prayer of the sinner asking for forgiveness.
- (3) Our prayers to God should never cease!

The Second Lesson Go to page 2

James 3:13-4:10

Lord help us

3:16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

3:18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*"

7 Therefore submit to God.
Resist the devil
and he will flee from you.

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

9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.

10 **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**

- (1) Verse 16
- (2) Verse 17
- (3) Verse 18
- (4) Verse 4:3
- (5) Verses 4:6-10

The importance of TRUTH as we
We Proclaim Jesus is Lord!

The Gospel Lesson Go to Page 3

Mark 9:30-37

37 "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

- (1) Who wants to be first and why?
- (2) Do You understand what Jesus was saying?
- (3) What were the Apostles discussing and why?
- (4) Was it Healthy for them and why?

SERMON HYMN No. 233

Satisfied
Red Book

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of faithfulness, we bring before you the precious gifts of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for those in need and prepare for your Son's advent into our hearts.

Amen.



Right before the Prayers of the Church

HYMN # 21

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L. In trust let us pray to God our Father, Jesus the Good Shepherd, and the Holy Spirit for the needs of the our neighbors near and far. **a brief silence**

L. Almighty God our heavenly Father, we thank you this day for the hope of life we have through your Son Jesus, the Living Word. Help us to know like the Apostle Peter that there is nowhere else to go, because Jesus alone has the words of eternal life. Empower us to tell others, so that they might know him as well. Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A. Father, may all of us of the Lutheran Church of the Cross be Your influence of the love You

want us to share with others of the gift of salvation for all people. Help us to be the Scriptural Church that draws others. Bless also our sister congregations: **Hope Lutheran Church** and Pastor Thomas Beam, and the **Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church**, Pastor: Rev. David B. Letscher, **Emmanuel Lutheran Church in State College**, Pastor: Rev. Christopher Milarch, the NALC Church Body, and all NALC Churches and Scriptural teaching churches, and for missionaries throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy: **C Hear our prayer.**

A. Father, as we pray for our leaders of our nation, strengthen the wills of all who take counsel for the nations. Teach them to use wisely and well the authority and power entrusted to them, so that all people may prosper and live peaceably with one another. **Especially President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence and Governor Tom Wolf**, that they seek your will when making decisions for the welfare of their people. Lord, in your mercy: **C Hear our prayer.**

A. We give thanks to You, O Lord, for Bishop John Bradosky, Pastor Forsythe, ministers and lay leaders who preach the Word of God, that they may testify to all people of repentance toward God and faith in our risen Lord Jesus Christ: and that meditating on Your precepts and fixing their eyes on Your ways, they may declare all the just decrees of Your mouth. Lord, in your mercy: **C Hear our prayer.**

A Let the cross of Christ be our source of hope and power in this congregation. May we never be ashamed of the foolishness of Christ crucified, but may we boldly proclaim the cross as your wisdom and righteousness, that many will experience its life-giving power. Lord, in your mercy, **C Hear our prayer.**

A Fill us with your Spirit, so that we desire to walk as children of light who try to discern what is pleasing to you. Give us your wisdom, so that we take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness,

but instead expose them so that the truth is made known. Help us to make the best use of our time, realizing the days are evil and time is of the essence to proclaim Christ as Lord to the world. Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A God of power and might, you alone are the true ruler of the world. All authority comes from you. Bless the leaders of the nations, that they may know the truth and lead their people according to it. We pray for our own nation – *the members of congress, the supreme court justices, all governors, state legislators, mayors and councils.* Guide and direct them to know and do your will. Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer.**

A For the persecuted Church: that remembering the eternal house of God not made with hands, they may persuade others with their reverent fear of the Lord. Lord, in your mercy.

C hear our prayer.

A Hear the cry of the righteous, and save all whose spirits are crushed. Grant them healing and wholeness in Jesus name. **We especially pray for those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts...***(pause)* Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A For all those who have died in the promise and power of the of resurrection, that held in your eternal keeping they may come with us to that new day when you work within us all far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, and to you be all glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Lord, in your mercy, **C Hear our prayer.**

P. Merciful Father, guided by your Holy Spirit, we are confident that you know our needs and that you hear our prayers and so we place all for whom we pray into your loving care for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen**

HOLY COMMUNION Page 31

THE PEACE

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.

HYMN # 87 O Jesus, Blessed Lord to Thee

PREFACE page 33

SANCTUS page 35

THE LORD'S PRAYER page 36

WORDS OF INSTITUTION page 36

AGNUS DEI page 37

DISTRIBUTION

All those who are baptized are welcome to join us to receive the precious gifts of forgiveness and communion as the Lord comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Children not yet communing may come forward and receive a blessing from the Pastor Forsythe.

NUNC DIMITTIS page 38

THANKSGIVING page 38

BENEDICAMUS page 38

BENEDICTION Page 38

CLOSING HYMN #251

Revive Us Again

Red Book

Go in peace WORKING FOR JESUS

NOTICES OF EVENTS

For September 23rd, 2018

We are meeting at 717 Lambs Creek Road, in

Mansfield.

The Bulletins are sponsored by the . Sponsors are needed. You may sponsor one or more weeks at a time. The Cost is \$5.00 Per Week Please give to the Pastor Forsythe. Checks made out to Lutheran Church of the Cross.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Every Sunday at 10:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School After Service

PRAYER and BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday at the Garges' at 6:30 PM

Church Council Meeting ?

Card and Flower Ministry

Contact Nancy Forsythe at 659-0241 if you know of someone who is in the hospital or is sick. We need to start a flower fund so we have funds to purchase flowers for those who are sick.

Our Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request please call the following numbers and give your prayer request. Be brief and to the point Call 659-0241. If you want to be on our Prayer Chain tell Nancy Forsythe.

We are: Christ-Center / Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded/Congregationally-Focused

Last Week's Record 9/16/2018

A. Attendance 9 B. Offering - \$510.00

PRAYER LIST FOR THE COMING WEEK

PLEASE NOTE: We need to know of those in need of PRAYER! Ask the person if they would like their name on our LIST!

Our Sister Churches:

Hope Lutheran Church Smethport, PA

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Beam

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Montoursville, PA

Pastor: Rev. David B. Letscher

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, State College

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Milarch

Remember to Pray for our Leaders:

Bishop and Mrs. John Bradosky - NALC Bishop

President & Mrs. Donald Trump

Governor & Mrs. Tom Wolf

Remember to Pray for these Special Needs:

All the Service men and women and those in

HARM'S WAY: Sgt. Andreas Wagner,

Pvt. Derek Stevens, Our Police Forces

Physical Needs:

Glen Young, Paul Young, Bob Lyle and his wife, Mrs. Nancy Forsythe, Pastor Forsythe, Mertella Smith, Gene and Patricia, Tom Matczak, Nicholas Wivell 3 year old with leukemia, Lou Mitchellree, Don Lohr, Frank Williams, Cheryl Furman, Elaine Beller., All the sick, Mabel Emerson, Joan McDougal,

Joey Kether, Rodney, Timothy, and Ricky Smith, Clifford Short, Ryan Bogaczyk, Larry Moran, Robert Gaylord, Jonathan P. Matczak, Dwayne Goodwin, Ruth Anne Machmer, Jeff Garges, Brandon Garges, Dylan, Ryan, & Madison Earl, Jesse Victims of disasters, Gibson, Those in Nursing Homes, Our Children, Teens, and youth program

DECORUM IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

In the Holy Temple we must maintain a deep piety and reverence, for the Lord is here invisibly present with us. Consequently, we should fix our thoughts on Him at all times. It is important that a quiet, peaceful and prayerful atmosphere always be preserved in God's Holy House.

Prayer on entering

the Lutheran Church of the Cross

Our Father, help us to be silent;

Help us to be thoughtful of You and other

worshippers; Help us to be reverent; for this is

Your House. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Keys To Worship

at Lutheran Church of the Cross

1. As you enter the Church: Take time to speak to the Lord in preparation for worship.

2. As we worship together: Allow the Lord to speak to you.

3. As you leave: Speak to others about your faith in God.

A PRAYER FOR EACH DAY THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, you draw all humanity to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to divest ourselves of worldly ambition and teach us to serve and welcome all, especially the least and most vulnerable among us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

The Common Thread

A prophet is not accepted by his people (Luke 4:24), as seen in the lives of Jeremiah, David, and Jesus. Jeremiah and David prayed God's vengeance upon the people of Anathoth and the Ziphites. Jesus, knowing God to be the "upholder" of his life, was able to be the truly "gentle Lamb, led to the slaughter." He humbled himself before God, and was therefore, exalted to be the Savior of the world, taking vengeance on sin and death. God also provides grace to be humble, the servants of everyone, drawing near to him instead of in anger toward those who oppose us.

First Reading - Jeremiah 11:18-20

Our modern world does not like justice. Oh, we hear about it often enough, that people really desire justice; but we really do not care much for real justice. Many will read the words of Jeremiah in verse 20, and wonder why the prophet was unwilling to just take it on the chin. Why does there have to be vengeance upon those who had plotted against his life? But the Lord says that vengeance is his and that he will indeed repay. **(Deut 32:35) Jesus spoke of real justice too when he said that such evildoers would not escape the divine sentence of hell.**

Psalm - Psalm 54:1-7

It was never David's aspiration to be king. He would only be the ruler of the people because God had said so. David was persecuted by King Saul because of the word of the Lord. It was not for David's music or friendship or any other reason. David was bedeviled by Saul because of the word of God. He knew, therefore, as difficult as such knowledge is to live with, that the Lord who had called would also deliver. It was with such knowledge that David could prayerfully entrust his life to the Lord.

Second Reading - James 3:13-4:10

Jeremiah had sufficient reason to strike the plotters against his life before they could get to him. David had every reason to lash out at King Saul for the king's attempts on David's life. The

Church suffers much persecution too. Sometimes, we want the kind of justice that strikes back. However, we know that it is the meek who will inherit the earth. (Matt 5:5) Christ's Church is called to peacemaking in spite of any conflict, to gentleness when others play rough, to mercy even if all others are merciless. In such times, we do not bear in on the enemy; instead, we draw near to God, trusting him for a harvest of righteousness.

Gospel - Mark 9:30-37

Jesus, unlike unwitting Jeremiah (Jer 11:19), would both knowingly and willingly go to his death (Acts 8:32) and also not complain or denounce his assailants (Isa 53:7), let alone argued with each other about which of them would be the greatest in their meek Lord's kingdom. So, he who had taken the time to talk and play with children (Matt 19:13-15), took another child in his arms and showed them what the greatest in the kingdom looked like. As they stared at the child, they could not have helped but see the Servant who held that child.