

Service of Holy Communion

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024



INTRODUCTION

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.

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

The congregation kneels or is seated. Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Gracious god, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P. God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

Congregation stands

GATHERING HYMN

God Is Here!

ELW 526

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Proverbs 31:10-31

- ¹⁰A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
- ¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
- ¹²She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
- ¹³She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
- ¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant,
she brings her food from far away.
- ¹⁵She rises while it is still night
and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
- ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
- ¹⁷She girds herself with strength,
and makes her arms strong.
- ¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
- ¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
- ²⁰She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
- ²¹She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
- ²²She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- ²³Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
- ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
- ²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing,

and she laughs at the time to come.
²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
²⁹“Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.”
³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
³¹Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

A. Word of God, word of life. C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 1 (*read responsively*)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**
³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

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. ^{4:1}Those 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. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

A. Word of God, word of life.

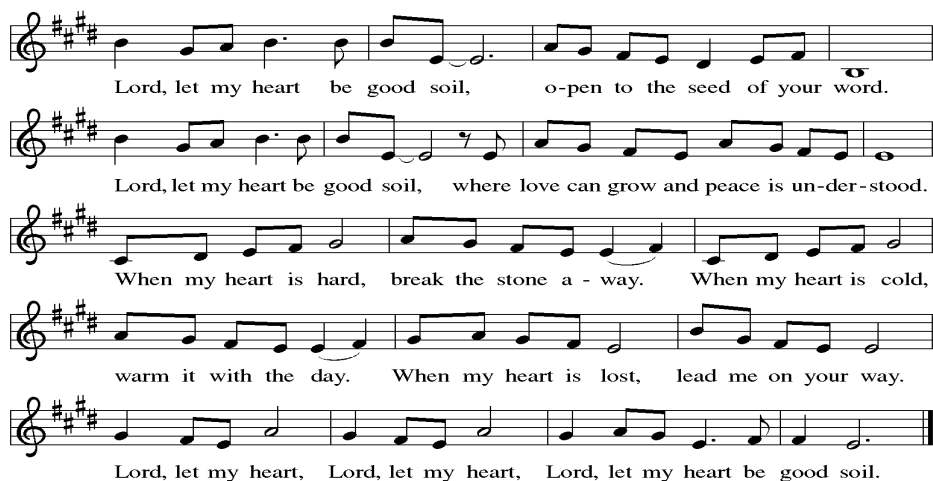
C. Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL

Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. 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.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

P. The holy gospel according to Mark. C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] 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, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation is seated

SERMON

Welcome Children

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Are Welcome

ELW 641

APOSTLE’S 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 THE CHURCH

A. Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

A. Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation, especially our Sunday School, Confirmation, and Adult Education programs . Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

A. Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer. We pray especially for... those we say aloud...and those we hold in our hearts. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God. **mercy is great.**

A. Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P. We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM

Humble Yourselves Before the Lord

Nan Allen, Mark Allen, Dennis Allen

MEAL

OFFERTORY INVITATION

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Congregation stands

OFFERTORY SONG

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
may we share the pres - ence of your love. *Refrain*

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

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy (*Sing 2x—English 1st time; Spanish 2nd time*)



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to, e - res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Argentine traditional

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, Argentine traditional

Congregation kneels or is seated.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

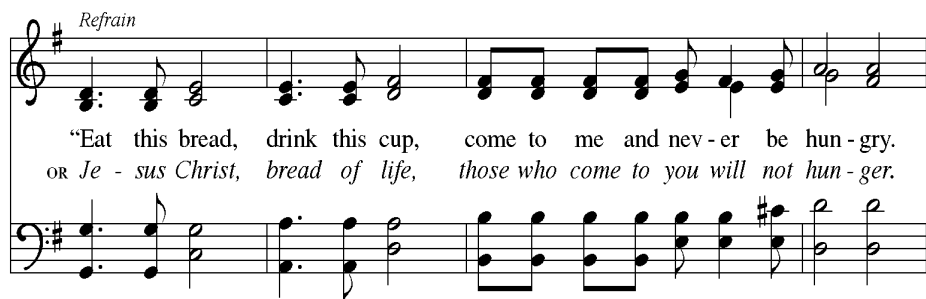
Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.

Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.

P. Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

COMMUNION SONG

Refrain



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

After all have received Communion the congregation stands.

TABLE BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray...Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P. God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **C. Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements for September 22, 2024

Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God’s presence in our worship!

If today is your first time worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the “Guest Book” on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.

Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. Large print bulletins are available.

Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.



Altar flowers are in celebration of Sam’s birthday, from Emilie Dupont



Volunteers for today’s Worship

- Lay Asst. Colleen Drache
- Comm. Asst. *Jump in during worship!!*
- Ushers Diane Rossi
- Tech Mark Rossi
- Tellers *Jump in after worship!!*

Volunteers for next Sunday, September 29th

- Lay Asst. *TBD-sign up on Sign Up Central Board*
- Comm. Asst. *TBD-sign up on Sign Up Central Board*
- Ushers *TBD-sign up on Sign Up Central Board*
- Tech Kevin Drache
- Tellers *TBD-sign up on Sign Up Central Board*

****** Join us for refreshments after worship******

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, Sept. 22: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship with Communion, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Auction Event: Card Making Class w/Kathy Heeren, 12pm

Monday, Sept. 23: Council Meeting, 6:30-8:30pm

Wednesday, Sept. 25: Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am

Thursday, Sept. 26: Pastor's Community Office Hours, Scout Goods, 1-3pm

Saturday, Sept. 28: Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

Sunday, Sept. 29: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion & Blessing of the Prayer Shawls, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

20 & 30-Somethings Apple Picking, Ochs Farm, 4pm

Pastor's Community Office Hours: Pastor Peggy will be at **Scout Goods THIS**

Thursday, September 26th from 1-3pm. All are welcome to drop in for a visit as she connects with the community.

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls: Thank you to everyone who helped restock our prayer shawls. **We will bless them in worship NEXT Sunday, September 29th.** If you have someone in your life who would benefit from a shawl you are welcome to bring one to them. Pastor Peggy brings them on pastoral care visits.

20 & 30-Somethings: **The 20 & 30-Somethings are going apple picking NEXT Sunday, September 29th at 4pm.** We will meet at Ochs Farm in Warwick to pick apples! Kids and friends are welcome—they even have a little petting zoo. Let Pastor Peggy know if you plan to attend.

Blessing of the Animals: Our annual Blessing of the Animals will be **Tuesday, October 1st at 6pm on the church front lawn.** Spread the word! All are welcome to join us for this brief gathering. Please bring your leashed or crated pet or their picture for a blessing.

Community Yard Sale: Our first yard sale was such a hit it was requested we host one in the fall too! Sign up today for our community yard sale on **Saturday, October 5th from 9am-1pm** (rain-date 10/12). **Spots are \$30**, keep what you sell; you bring a table, chairs, tent. **First come, first serve with table and chairs for \$50—limited number available.** Contact the Church Office @ 973-827-5251 or sign up on the poster sheet in the hall to reserve your spot & sell your treasures!

Service Opportunity: Volunteers needed for our **Church Road Cleanup** scheduled for **Sunday, October 13th from 11-2 pm**. Participate for as long as you can! As part of the Clean Communities Project, the Vernon Twp DPW will pay HCLC to pick up the garbage from Sand Hill and McPeck roads. Please see Diane Rossi if you are available to help!

Kick It with Your Fellow Lutherans at the Gotham FC Soccer Game: The NJ Synod Youth Ministry Team is hosting an outing to see the **soccer game for Gotham FC vs. Orlando Pride on Sunday, October 20th** at the Red Bull Arena in Harrison, NJ. All families, youth, and youth leaders are invited to attend. Enjoy an exciting match featuring some of the world's best women athletes. **Tickets are \$5 each. Tailgating begins at 3 pm with kickoff at 5 pm.** For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.njsynod.org/youth-events>

New Education Series: Our ELCA Clergy Cluster is offering a new adult education series titled Growing Together in Faith. We will offer multiple iterations of this series beginning with **"Study Skills for Scripture"**. We will gather with other ELCA church members in our cluster **via Zoom every Wednesday in October from 6:30-8pm** to learn more about how to read and understand scripture led by the pastors in our area. More details in the September newsletter. All are invited to attend. **Please let Pastor Peggy know if you'd like to participate.**

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is low on **Jello, fruit snacks, rice, canned fruit, pasta sauce, hamburger helper, canned soup, coffee, macaroni & cheese, snacks and juice boxes for children (packages of individual items), 4-packs of toilet paper, dish detergent, and body wash.** You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be placed in the blue bin by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!



Contact Information

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MISSION STATEMENT

*As Children of God,
we are called to share and serve
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow

President Nancy Knecht

Vice President Steve Baumann

Treasurer Colleen Drache

Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick

Financial Secretary John Heeren

Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince

Nurture Coordinator Margaret Kranz

Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi

Youth Representative Kevin Drache

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Jeanette Emmerich

Frank Urbaniak

Pam Kucks

Matt Moller

Aileen Donovan

Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

