

**Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, September 23, 2018**  
**Pastor – Rev. Joel Schlachtenhaufen**  
**Organist – Lori Free**

Organ Prelude

Pastor's greeting

Opening Hymn: **#543 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

Order of Worship – pages 77 – 79, 81

Prayer of the Day – Celebrate

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm: 54

Second Reading: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **#343 Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

Apostle's Creed: page 85

Offertory: page 96 – “Create in Me...”

Prayers of the Church - Celebrate

Communion

Communion Hymn: **#328 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!**

Closing Hymn: **#377 Lift High the Cross**

Benediction

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**  
**CELEBRATING OUR 136th YEAR**  
**IN HIS SERVICE**  
**1882 – 2018**

Pastor Joel Schlachtenhaufen graduated from Wartburg Seminary after interning in Brazil. He served the National Indian Lutheran Board, International Volunteer Services, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Arizona Indian Ministry, St. Olaf's Milwaukee Urban Semester, Wilderness Lutheran Church of the Stockbridge Mohican Community and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Neenah. In retirement he has been involved in interfaith relations, ESTHER justice ministry and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania. Ask Pr. Joel and Susan about “Friends of Transylvania” an effort by Lutherans in Romania to connect with ELCA individuals, congregations, and institutions. They were there in May and June. Their email address is sjschlach@gmail.com. Or ask them about their L.A. Sons Steffen (Melissa and Felix) and Andy.

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today. And if you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.

*All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.*

**Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School.**

**Visit us at [www.bethanyephraim.org](http://www.bethanyephraim.org), and follow our worship services live, and archived, on the web site.**

**The web address above is correct and the web address on the cover is no longer used.**

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 139:1-18. **Tuesday** James 5:1-6. **Wednesday** Jeremiah 1:4-10. **Thursday** Psalm 19:7-14. **Friday** Acts 12:20-25. **Saturday** (Michael and All Angels) Luke 10:17-20. **19th Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Jerome, translator, teacher, 420) Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50.

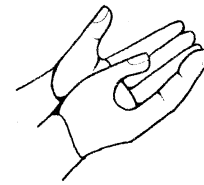
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Tracks 1, 2 and 3



# Celebrate

Sunday, September 23, 2018  
18th Sunday after Pentecost

*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 an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular 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.*

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## 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.*

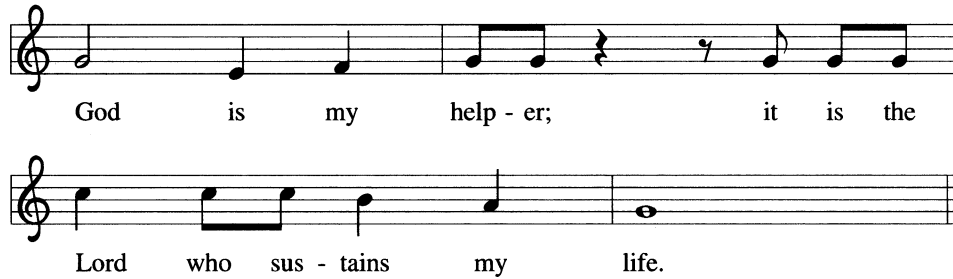
It was the LORD who made it known  
to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil  
deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But 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!"  
<sup>20</sup>But 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.

or Wisdom 1:16—2:1, 12-22 [not printed]

*Dating from shortly before the time of Christ, the Wisdom of Solomon is a piece of Jewish wisdom literature. This reading portrays the ungodly planning the downfall of the righteous person. The ungodly are allied with death, and they do not know that God gives eternal life to the righteous.*



Save me, O God, <sup>1</sup>by your name;  
in your might, de- <sup>1</sup>fend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>Hear my <sup>1</sup>prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words <sup>1</sup>of my mouth.

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me,  
and the ruthless have <sup>1</sup>sought my life,  
those who have no re- <sup>1</sup>gard for God.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, God <sup>1</sup>is my helper;  
it is the Lord who sus- <sup>1</sup>tains my life. **R**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who <sup>1</sup>spy on me;  
in your faithful- <sup>1</sup>ness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>I will offer you a <sup>1</sup>freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O LORD, for <sup>1</sup>it is good.

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from <sup>1</sup>every trouble,  
and my eye looks down <sup>1</sup>on my enemies. **R**

*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.*

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But 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. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in

peace for those who make peace. <sup>4:1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>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. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

*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.*

[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for 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." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you argu-

ing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."