

**Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, August 29, 2021**  
**Pastor - Rev. John Rollefson**  
**Organist - Lori Free**

Organ Prelude and Pastor's Greeting

Opening Hymn: **#373 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Psalm: Psalm 15

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*Response after the announcement:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Response after the conclusion:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Poets of the Word

Hymn of the Day: **#627 O Day Full of Grace**

Apostle's Creed: page 105 (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Words of Institution and Communion

Lord's Prayer (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Communion Hymn: **#778 The Lord's My Shepherd**

Sending Song: **#545 Lord Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**  
Dismissal

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**  
**CELEBRATING OUR 139th YEAR**  
**IN HIS SERVICE**  
**1882 - 2021**

John Rollefson, a native of Oconomowoc, is a retired ELCA pastor having served urban and campus congregations in San Francisco, Milwaukee, Ann Arbor and Los Angeles with interims in Solvang and London. His schooling has taken him from Decorah to New Haven to Edinburgh, and from London to Berkeley, with stops along the way at Colledgeville and Cambridge, Mass.

He lives in San Luis Obispo on California's central coast with his wife Ruth, a retired vocal music teacher and church musician. They have two grown sons who live with their families in Cork, Ireland and Shorewood, WI. They are expecting their fourth grandchild in October.

John is the author of a trilogy of books, Postils for Preaching: Commentaries on the Revised Common Lectionary, Years A, B & C and reviews books for the journal Currents in Theology and Mission.

*We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today.  
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 [BethanyEphraim.org](http://BethanyEphraim.org),  
and follow our worship service live, and archived,  
on the web site.**

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for individuals in positions of authority (*national and local leaders may be named*). Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

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**Monday** Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48. **Tuesday** Deuteronomy 4:15-20. **Wednesday** Mark 7:9-23. **Thursday** (commemoration of Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, 1872) Psalm 146. **Friday** Romans 2:12-16. **Saturday** Isaiah 33:1-9. **15th Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 7:24-37.

CELEBRATE August 29, 2021 (Lectionary 22)

Volume 52, Number 4

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 510 Marquette Ave, Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. Periodicals postage paid in Twin Cities, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$4.90 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Bruce Bengtson. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our Web site at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year B.

1 of 13  
Tracks 1 and 2



# Celebrate

Sunday, August 29, 2021  
14th Sunday after Pentecost

*Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.*

## Prayer of the Day

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O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

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Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say,

"Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.



LORD, who may dwell in your tab - er - na - cle?

LORD, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup> tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup> holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup> what is right,  
who speak the truth <sup>1</sup> from their heart;

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup> to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- <sup>1</sup> on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected,  
but they honor those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take <sup>1</sup> back their word.

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain,  
nor do they take bribes a- <sup>1</sup> gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup> overthrown. **R**

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not

merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

## Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

<sup>21</sup>"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."