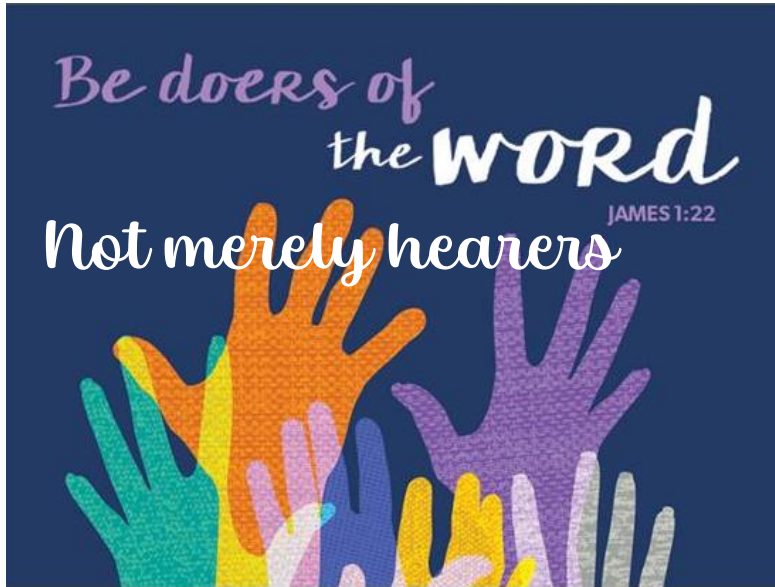


***Good Hope, Immanuel & St. John's  
Lutheran Churches***

***September 1, 2024 / 9:00 AM  
St. John's, Woden, IA***



**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Pastor John Heille**

Today's introduction:

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PRELUDE AND MEDITATION**

*Emogene Kurtzleben, Organist/Pianist*

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GATHERING HYMN**

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

**ELW # 879**


**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**KYRIE**

**ELW p. 184**

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**ELW p. 185**

*(piano introduction)*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -

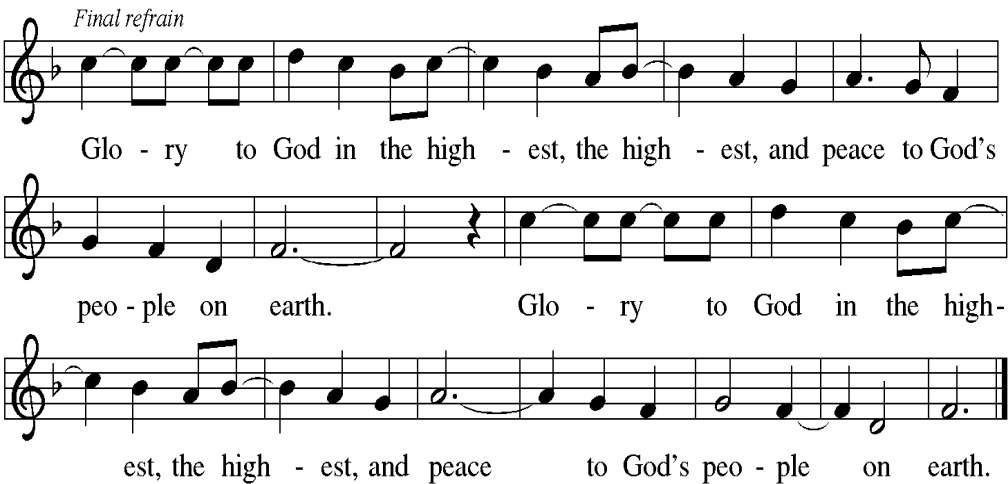
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Final refrain*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's  
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -  
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

*(Please be seated)*

**FIRST READING Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

*Though using language and images of a love story, the Song of Solomon has long been interpreted allegorically. Jewish lore sees it as a description of the love between God and Israel. Christians have often interpreted the Song as a description of the love between Christ and his church.*

- <sup>8</sup>The voice of my beloved!  
 Look, he comes,  
 leaping upon the mountains,  
 bounding over the hills.
- <sup>9</sup>My beloved is like a gazelle  
 or a young stag.  
 Look, there he stands  
 behind our wall,  
 gazing in at the windows,  
 looking through the lattice.
- <sup>10</sup>My beloved speaks and says to me:  
 "Arise, my love, my fair one,  
 and come away;
- <sup>11</sup>for now the winter is past,  
 the rain is over and gone.

<sup>12</sup>The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.

<sup>13</sup>The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away."

Leader: "The Word of the Lord"

All: "**Thanks be to God**"

**PSALM Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>My heart is stirring with a noble song; let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; my tongue shall be the pen of a skillful writer.

<sup>2</sup>**You are the noblest among the people;  
grace flows from your lips, because God has blessed you forever.**

<sup>6</sup>Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever,  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>7</sup>**You love righteousness and hate iniquity;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness  
above your companions.**

<sup>8</sup>All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia,  
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

<sup>9</sup>**Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court;  
on your right hand is the queen, adorned with the gold of Ophir.**

**HYMN/NOISY OFFERING** "Lord, Let My Heart..." **ELW # 512 (sing twice)**  
*Your noisy offerings are donated to the area food pantries. Thank you for helping  
feed our neighbors.*

**SECOND READING James 1:17-27**

*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.*

<sup>17</sup>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.

Leader: "The Word of the Lord"

All: "Thanks be to God"

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW p. 188**

*(piano introduction)*

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

Leader: A reading from the book of Mark.

All: "Glory to you, O Lord"

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>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."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **"Praise to you, O Christ"**

*(Please be seated)*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

Pr. John Heille

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"O God beyond All Praising"*

**ELW # 880**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**ELW p. 105**

### **CONFESSION**

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*



Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.**  
**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**  
**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,**  
**to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins.  
 As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**PEACE**

**OFFERING**

*Please drop off your offerings in the entrance of the church as you enter. Parish Three offerings may also be made online at [www.parish3.com](http://www.parish3.com).*

**OFFERTORY**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
 and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.  
 Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
 and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.  
 Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, O



Lord, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 191

### BLESSING AND SENDING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

### SENDING HYMN

*"Give to Our God Immortal Praise!"*

ELW # 848

### POSTLUDE

\*\*\*\*\*

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## PRAYERS

We offer prayers of support, healing and comfort for those in our church families and communities who are ill, suffering, or coping with a loss. Please include in your prayers: the family of Bruce Schutjer, the family of LeAlan Schmidt, Chris Heille (Pr John's uncle), Gabby Trunkhill, Jerry Harms, Lisa Tjaden, Avon Rurup, Doris Haugland, Russ Bruns, all active military (Brandon Bengtson and Seth Green), our folks in nursing homes, our Bishops Eaton and Halaas.

**\*\*Welcome to everyone** worshipping today: those attending in person, those attending the Care Center live-stream and anyone joining YouTube Iowa Lutherans. And a big **Thank You** to all those participating in worship services: organists, greeters, readers, Care Center live-streamers, ushers and you!

25th ORDINATION  
ANNIVERSARY



**We'll be celebrating Pastor John's 25<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary** next Sunday, September 8, at Good Hope after the worship service. His ordination date was September 19, 1999. All are welcome: family, friends and neighbors!

**\*\*All are invited to Bethlehem Lutheran Church Guest Night** in Buffalo Center on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 PM. The theme is "LEAP OF FAITH – how faith supports a successful career". Speakers will be Megan Holland, Tyann Beenken and Jonathan Potter. Everyone (yes, men, too) are welcome! Refreshments will follow.

**\*\*Hospice of the Heartland** will be starting a Grief Support Group that will run every Wednesday from August 28-October 2. Anyone who is struggling with grief is invited to attend. Meeting are in the Kossuth Regional Health Center Conference Room C (by Community Health). For more information, you may contact Kathy Dearchs, LISW at (515) 295-4437 or at [Kathy.dearchs@mercyhealth.com](mailto:Kathy.dearchs@mercyhealth.com). Your loved one did not need to receive Hospice Services for you to attend.

### **THIS WEEK AT PARISH THREE**

9/03/2024	7:00 PM	Music committee @ Immanuel
9/04/2024	3:00 PM	Worship @ Titonka Care Center
9/05/2024	7:00 PM	WELCA meeting @ St. John's
9/08/2024	9:00 AM	Worship @ Good Hope w/Holy Communion, followed by Pr John's 25 <sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary coffee
9/08/2024	6:00 PM	Youth Night @ Good Hope

**\*\*Help is still needed** (only 5 more people) from Immanuel and St. John's to serve and clean up at Pr John's 25<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary coffee at Good Hope on Sep 8. Please call the church office (641-926-5798) and leave your name on the answering machine.

**\*\*Immanuel 125<sup>th</sup> offerings:** the Safe T Home offering was \$4,200 and the Flood Relief offering was \$3,600! Thanks to everyone who generously donated to these worthy causes!

**\*\*Parish Three Family Night is starting September 15.** Parents and children (ages 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to St. John's from 6 – 7 PM for a time to share a Bible story, a song and a game. The goal is to create a time for kids and parents to play and learn the stories of faith together. Contact Pr John if you have any questions.

**\*\*Titonka Care Center resident count** as of this past Wednesday: 21

**\*\*Next Sunday is "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday.** Be thinking of a service project where you can use your hands to further God's work. Then go do it!

## GOOD HOPE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### THIS WEEK AT GOOD HOPE

Mon., Sept. 2		Labor Day
Wed., Sept. 4	3:00 p.m.	Care Center Worship
Sun., Sept. 8	9:00 a.m.	Joint Worship at Good Hope/Communion Celebration of Pastor John's 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ordination following in the Fellowship Hall

### THANK YOU!

My dad greatly appreciated your expression of sympathy for my mom, Joyce Hanson, and also for the beautiful plant and flower basket. He has been reminiscing about many pleasant times in Titonka!

-Gail Hanson

**\*\*Good Hope Church Cleaning** is now through September 14th. The job duties are in your mailboxes. If you need a key to get into the church, there is one at the bank and one in the insurance agency. If you would like to have a key there are a few left, ask Kelly for one. Thank you ALL for helping with this BIG job!

**\*\*SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY** will be held on Sunday, September 15th at 9:15 a.m. All children ages 3 and up are invited to attend Sunday School. You do not need to pre-register and children are welcome to attend any time. Sunday School will begin at 9:15 a.m. each week.

**\*\*There will be sign-up sheets** in the back of the church for food donations and workers on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> for the WELCA Brunch that is being held on September 29<sup>th</sup> following our worship service. Please be generous with the food donations and donating your time! Thank you!

**\*\*Here's a sweet opportunity** for you to help out the care Center! The Friends of the Care Center are looking for volunteers to donate 3 dozen cookies a week. You will be contacted as to which week you will be asked to donate. Please place your name and telephone number on the sheet in the narthex to sign-up for cookies. Or you may contact Carole Tuecke at (515) 341-0131 to sign up. All volunteers will be contacted as needed. Thank you.

