

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20B)

## September 19, 2021

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 37:5-7; Antiphon: Psalm 37:4*

*Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.  
Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.  
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,  
and your justice as the noonday.  
Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;  
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,  
over the man who carries out evil devices!*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Delight yourself in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness,  
grant us humility and childlike faith  
that we may please You in both will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with the You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.*

**C** *♪[Amen]♪*

### **GRADUAL**

*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt*

*Fear the LORD, you his saints,  
for those who fear him lack nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.*

### **RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

**P** *Lord, in your mercy,*      **C** **hear our prayer**

*The prayer concludes:*

**P** *....one God forever.*      **C** **Amen.**

### **Jeremiah 11:18-20 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds. <sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more.” <sup>20</sup>But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

### **James 3:13-4:10 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

<sup>4:1</sup>What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You

adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? <sup>6</sup>But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” <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. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

### **Mark 9:30-37 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup>[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

<sup>36</sup>And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

## THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### PROPER 20 B

Jeremiah 11:18–20

James 3:13—4:10

Mark 9:30–37

### *Our Father Cares for His Children with the Gospel of His Son*

The sinful heart is filled with “*bitter jealousy and selfish ambition*” (James 3:14), which causes hostility, quarrels and conflicts, even among those who are fellow members of the body of Christ. This should not be so! Rather, God “*opposes the proud*” with His Law, in order to humble them unto repentance; and He “*gives grace to the humble,*” in order to exalt them by His Gospel of forgiveness (James 4:6–10). This true “*wisdom from above*” is found in the gentleness, mercy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself and sacrificed Himself for the salvation of sinners (James 3:17). He was “*like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter,*” committing Himself to God, His Father, “*who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind*” (Jer. 11:19–20). Therefore, “*after three days,*” His Father exalted Him by raising Him from the dead (Mark 9:31). In Holy Baptism, He takes disciples of all ages into His arms like little children. In receiving Him, through repentance and faith in His forgiveness of sins, they receive from His Father a share in the glory of His Cross and Resurrection (Mark 9:36–37).

### *Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:*

September 26 (Proper 21B) Pentecost 18

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalm 104:27-35,

James 5:(1-12) 13-20, Mark 9:38-50