

Old Testament Reading:

Jeremiah 11:18–20

¹⁸ The LORD made it known to me and I knew;
then you showed me their deeds.
¹⁹ 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.”
²⁰ 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.

Epistle: James 3:13–4:10

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

^{4:1} What causes quarrels and what causes
fights among you? Is it not this, that your
passions are at war within you? ² 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. ³ You ask and do not receive,
because you ask wrongly, to spend it on

your passions. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore
it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives
grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves
therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he
will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God,
and he will draw near to you. Cleanse
your hands, you sinners, and purify your
hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched
and mourn and weep. Let your laughter
be turned to mourning and your joy to
gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the
Lord, and he will exalt you.

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:30–37

³⁰ [The disciples] went on from there
and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus]
did not want anyone to know, ³¹ 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.” ³² But they did not
understand the saying, and were afraid to
ask him.

³³ And they came to Capernaum. And
when he was in the house he asked them,
“What were you discussing on the way?”
³⁴ But they kept silent, for on the way they
had argued with one another about who
was the greatest. ³⁵ 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.” ³⁶ And he took a
child and put him in the midst of them,
and taking him in his arms, he said to
them, ³⁷ “Whoever receives one such child
in my name receives me, and whoever
receives me, receives not me but him who
sent me.”



About the Cover: As he proclaimed the Lord’s prophetic Word,
Jeremiah certainly knew what it was like to be led as a lamb to
slaughter by those who resisted the Word. Certainly these words apply
all the more to Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for us. He,
who was delivered into the hands of sinful men, has delivered to us
forgiveness, life, and salvation through His death and resurrection.
Christ is truly “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”
(John 1:29).

I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter

Jeremiah 11:19



St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

815-989-2025

September 22, 2024 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Office of Matins (Lutheran Service Book, pg. 219)

Hymn of Invocation 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Opening Versicles (Common, p. 219)

***Venite* (p. 220)**

Psalm 54

¹O God, save me, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.

²**O God, hear my prayer;
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life;
they do not set God before themselves.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

⁵He will return the evil to my enemies;
in your faithfulness put an end to them.

⁶**With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

**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.**

Office Hymn 700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Responsory (Common, p. 221)

Sermon

***Te Deum* (p. 223)**

Presentation of the Offering

Kyrie (p. 227)

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 You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

Collect for Grace (p. 228)

Benedicamus and Benediction

Closing Hymn 763 When Peace, like a River

Silent Prayer

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo>

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Rev. Timothy Nerud **Pastor**
815-989-2025 (Office) 612-940-8138 (Cell)

Elder: Mike Dahl

Greeter: Janet Bertsos

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Holy Spirit of the Godhead, who has called us into the marvelous light of Christ, lead us also in the footsteps of Christ that the sinner in us always give way to our sainthood in Christ; through that same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Father are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday, please call ahead) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday— Friday) please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES - use this website (www.lhm.org) to receive daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—8 Adult Bible Class—11 Worship—48

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday	\$2,350.00
Weekly giving needed per 2024 Budget	\$4,481.54

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship
Thursday	6:30 pm	SS meeting
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalms 122:1

MARK 9:32 – **"But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him."** The disciples really do hold up a mirror to our faces and force us to see ourselves: misunderstanding, afraid, confused. But the Word of God is clear if only we will listen with open ears. What was blocking the disciples' ears? The Gospels tell us time and again: they did not expect a suffering Christ, and so when Jesus spoke of suffering, they plugged their ears and didn't listen, so they ended up confused and scared. What about us? What's in the Word of God that we find hard to hear and contrary to our desires and expectations? That might just be exactly what we need to hear!

ATTENDANCE BOOK—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

ALTAR FLOWERS have been given in memory of Vernon Kane. May his Christian walk be an encouragement to all as we travel through this world to our eternal home.

PHONE NUMBER CHANGE—The church phone number is changed. Please make a note of this change. **The new church number is: 815-989-2025.** This will connect you to either the church office or Pastor's office.

WILL YOU SERVE?—We are looking for people to serve on various Council Boards. Anyone willing to serve on a Board may contact Dave.

As stated in our By-Laws, we will be seeking people to fill the following positions. Everyone is asked to consider where they might serve:

Chairman	Financial Treasurer	Elder
Trustee	Evangelism	Stewardship (2)
SS Superintendent		

CHRISTIAN LIVING—Mark 9:30-37: When Jesus calls us to be His own, He calls us to a life of service which, on the surface, may seem too challenging and

difficult. The Good News is that He daily equips us to be His servants and witnesses. What a privilege we have to speak of Jesus to people who have little or no direction in their lives.

LIFE THOUGHTS—Those who see abortion as just “another issue” and would support or encourage a woman to make such a choice fail to understand the scriptural concept of “neighbor” and have a false sense of what it means to love. Those who see both mother and unborn child as “neighbor” and take action to bring help and hope fulfill the second greatest commandment in the Law and reflect the love of Christ (Matthew 22:34-40).

DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS: The current Dollar for Missions project is for replacement of furnaces at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center, Macomb, which is expected to cost some \$25,000. The Student Center was built 55 years ago. Equipment replacement like this is important so the Gospel can continue to be proclaimed and students can go on being reached there for years into the future. For more information visit <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-dfm-current-project.html>. **(Thank you to those at St. John’s who consistently support the work of Missions on the District and Synodical level. You are a blessing!)**

ALTAR FLOWERS—The **2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms.** Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. **Please sign up for a Sunday.**

PRAYER MINISTRY

Rejoice in God’s goodness in Christ as you pray:

MISSION—*Pray for all unbelievers, that they would repent and trust in Christ.*

ST JOHN’S—Mr. & Mrs. Carl Freeman—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Carl, Heidi, Kayci, Cole and Cooper asking Your blessings upon them.

ST. JOHN’S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Elizabeth Bjork	Paula Chapa	Joyce DeFauw
Betty Firch	Arlyn Helke	Jessica Johnson
Lynne Johnson	Linda Lundquist	Aaron Raschke
Drew Schillinger	Carolyn Wildermuth	Marilyn Woods
Dawn Daebelliehn		

Brandon & Shaeli Streeks & family (Adopted Seminarian)

Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Shandel Loenser

Paul Werner (brother of Dan Werner)

Ron Powell (friend of Brad Gehn)

Justin Rittenhouse (grandson of John/Nancy Wickwire)

Marty Cavato (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)

Ellen Bauer (grandmother of Joel Werling)

Don Lutz (husband of an LWML friend of Liz Neumann)

Carol Eggers (friend of Marilyn Woods)

Gary Kilstom (friend of Brad Gehn)

Kenneth Cullison (son of Kevin and Stacie Rahn)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy Davila (daughter of Linda Aper)

Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)

Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)

Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)

Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)

Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“All of us who die in Christ are going to come up like cherry tomatoes in July— ‘a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb’ (Revelation 7:9b). I’ll be there, and so will you, all of us celebrating the Lord who loved us and gave Himself for us—He who died like a single seed falling into the earth, and now ‘bears much fruit’ (John 12:24b).” *Dr. Kari Vo – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

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Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

Text: James 3:13-4:10 (Epistle)

Other Texts: Jeremiah 11:18-20 (Old Testament); Mark 9:30-37 (Gospel)

“Humble Yourself Before the Lord, and He Will Exalt You”

Grace, mercy and peace be yours from God our Father through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ Jesus proclaimed, “Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”ⁱ And so, echoing the words of his half-brother and, far more importantly, his Lord and Savior,ⁱⁱ St. James writes, “Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”ⁱⁱⁱ The point is clear, we are to, *need to*, humble ourselves. But what does such humbling consist of? Fortunately, James does not leave us in the dark on this issue.

To begin, on its most basic, fundamental level, humbling ourselves is *repentance*. We are to repent of our sins and our sinfulness, the unclean nature from which they come. This is what James means when he writes, “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”^{iv} We do not draw near to God in self-righteousness, in pride over our goodness, with the idea that our sins are “no big deal” to God, that He should overlook them (and would really be petty and unfair if He didn’t!). Far from drawing near to God, these are paths *away* from Him, from His grace and mercy, drawing near instead to evil and, consequently, to judgement, condemnation, and wrath.

Remember, it is *Christians* that James refers to as sinners and double-minded. This ongoing presence of the sinful nature is why when our Lord taught us to pray, He did not make “Forgive us our trespasses” an *optional* petition, to be included only on rare occasions. It is why Christ’s Church is correct to utilize public confession of sins in the Divine Service and rightly encourages private confession to one’s pastor.

To draw near to God is to recognize our sins, our faithlessness, our filthy thoughts, ungodly words, and our evil actions. It is to recognize that instead of building up our fellow believers we have torn them down; that we have failed to confess our sins against those whom we have hurt even as we have been painfully slow in forgiving them when they have sinned against us. It is to recognize that we have harmed the faith of others instead of helping it by our lack of love for them and our sins against them, for receiving evil from one who claims to be a brother or sister in Christ causes far more damage than by one who does not. Yes, it is to recognize these things in ourselves and to respond rightly by being wretched, mourning, and weeping over our sins. And it is to the one broken in sorrow by sincere repentance, that the good news is proclaimed, “Let your mourning be dancing,^v your weeping become laughter, for Christ Jesus has died for you, His blood cleanses you, your sins are forgiven!”

But let us understand this too rightly. It is not, “Yes, I’m a sinner. Really sorry about that. But Jesus died for me. I’m totally forgiven. So now *back to sinning* (repeat the cycle).” Tell me, if someone says they’re sorry for doing something wrong to you, but then just continues doing it, would you believe they are actually sorry? Does not true sorrow mean hating the evil that has

been done so much that you STOP it? And if that is true in this life between sinners, which it clearly is, *then how much truer still when dealing with the holy God!*

The Bible is clear that we will remain sinners until our last breath. But the Bible is also clear that the presence of sin in a believer is not the same as sin *ruling* the person. For if sin rules, then Christ does not. And if Christ rules, then sin does not. We're all sinners, *but we're also new creations*. To willingly continue in sin is not being sorry. It is to cease repenting and so cease drawing near to God. That person has put themselves back under judgment and, truly an even more severe condemnation, as they formerly knew God by faith *and then deserted Him*.^{vi}

Consequently, true repentance has fruits; a living faith in Christ produces both change of life and growth in holiness. James calls on us to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts. Here the whole person of the Christian is considered. For the purifying of the hearts is internal, the forgiveness of sins received by faith and that faith then being active, transforming our minds to think and feel like Christ, to hate that which God calls evil and to love that which God calls good, and to then cleans our hands, that is, live accordingly! The Law of God cannot save a person, only Christ crucified and risen can do that. But for the one who has been saved by faith in Jesus, the Law of God shows both the wide path of foolishness, sin and selfishness, which must be avoided, as well as the path of wisdom, righteousness, and love for God and the neighbor which is the way to our heavenly home which Christ has won for us.

So James mentions two types of wisdom, the one from above, a good and perfect gift from the Father of Lights,^{vii} and one from below, being earthly, unspiritual, demonic. But he explains them by contrasting their fruit. Jealousy, selfish ambition, disorder, and every vile practice, these are how you identify the earthly, unspiritual lies that the demons try to pass on as "great wisdom." They are the way of the corrupted world. Climbing the ladder, looking out for number one, just doing business, helping in order to be praised, resentful of the abilities others have and the praise they receive, bringing disorder in the family and church through selfishness and pride instead of unity through love and humility, and then all hell breaking loose with vile, flagrant breaking of the Commandments. That is the wisdom of this world, the wisdom of hell.

Quite different is the wisdom from above. Being from God, conveyed through His Word, it is pure, that is, not contaminated by sin in any way, revealing the righteous way of the faithful disciple. The wise are peaceable, desiring to maintain the bond of unity in the church as well as harmony in the family and community, working to protect that peace where it is threatened and to restore it wherever it has been lost. The wise are gentle, readily turning the other cheek, taking the insult, willing to offer their opinion, but not willing to demand others accept their way.

The wise are open to reason, readily listening to others and being willing to change their minds, whenever God's Word has spoken, but also to all just and reasonable arguments and requests, even as they do not stand on extreme positions that would break the brotherly peace. Instead of selfishness, the wise have mercy, instead of sins, they bear the good fruits of faith, hope, and love, doing good works to God's glory and for the benefit of others. They are impartial, not judging by personal preference, but God's Word, the rule of law, and solid reason. Finally, there is not hypocrisy, but only the Christian sincerity of faith in Christ Jesus their Lord.

James holds up before us our enemies. He mentions our passions and desires, those that are selfish, craving that which satisfies our sinful heart, mind, and body. He is clear that such cause harm, breaking relationships, between believers and between the believer and God, for following the sinful nature destroys saving faith. He mentions the world in no uncertain terms. “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.”^{viii} To follow earthly, unspiritual wisdom, that is, the wisdom of the world, is to be friends with the world, to think and act as it does. As the world will be destroyed by God, so shall all who are its friends. Finally, he tells us that submission to God, that is, true faith, includes resisting the devil, his temptations unto his works and ways which may seem so pleasant, but always lead to harm of body and soul. What a blessing to know that when we submit to God in repentance and faith, He is there giving us protection against the devil and the strength to resist him so that he must flee!

James teaches us a truth about prayer. “You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”^{ix} These do not conflict. First is the reality that we do not regularly come to God, asking Him for His good gifts and blessings. Second, and related, this is because what we desire is not of God, but of our filthy passions. Why ask God when we know He won’t give us what we want! And so in the process we lose the good blessings, both without and especially within us, and we thereby grow in evil. Dear Christians, consider this prayer: “Dear Lord, give me the wisdom from above to know Your will and the power to conform my will to Yours, to change my desires to desire that which You want”? Should that not be prayed daily? Do we pray it daily? Ever? Is that why sin has so much power in us? Because we aren’t praying against sin enough, praying more for the Holy Spirit?

“[God] yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us.”^x The heavenly Father has made His Spirit dwell within us, filling us as His temple in Holy Baptism. He gives us His Spirit to make and keep us as His true friends through faith and the new spiritual life faith produces. The Holy Spirit is jealous, being both grieved and angered when we become friends of the world and by such God’s enemies. We who are to be the pure Bride of Christ become adulterers, desiring things other than Christ our Bridegroom, betraying Him subtly and overtly. But He give us more grace. *Not* so that we would keep being adulterers, but to forgive us our betrayal and encourage and empower us to live once more as faithful members of His Bride.

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” James preaches much Law and, hopefully, we have all been humbled today, brought to further, deeper mourning over our sins. Not that we would despair, but that we would return to the Lord in true repentance to receive His forgiveness in Christ Jesus and, being lifted by His abundant grace, we would truly despise all that comes from the devil, the world, and our sinful passions and desires, turning from the “wisdom” that is earthly, unspiritual, demonic, to that which comes from above, revealed in Christ Jesus and the inspired Holy Scriptures, and in the indwelling Spirit’s power live accordingly. A life of humility under the cross. A life that doesn’t end, however, but continues forever in glory when God exalts His faithful people on the Last Day. God bring us there. Amen!

ⁱ Matthew 23:12. Scripture quotes are from *The Holy Bible English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

ⁱⁱ Cf. James 1:1 where he does not mention the familial relationship with Jesus at all, but puts everything on his relationship to Him through faith.

ⁱⁱⁱ James 4:10.

^{iv} James 4:8.

^v Cf. Psalm 30:11.

^{vi} 2 Peter 2:20.

^{vii} James 1:17.

^{viii} James 4:4.

^{ix} James 4:2b-3.

^x James 4:5.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20B)
22 September 2024

Presentation of the Offering

O Father in heaven, grant us Your Holy Spirit and so lead us Christians to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty You have provided, to support the Church and to help those in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Collect of the Day

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 You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Prayer of the Church—Ektene Form

For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the educational institutions of our synod: for our preschools, our day schools and high schools, our colleges and universities, and for our seminaries, that those who teach and those who learn in them would be transformed by the wisdom of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who serve in worthy occupations, professions, arts, and sciences, that God would grant us skill and integrity in the performance of our responsibilities and valued service through our vocations, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all believers, that God would give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and resist every temptation unto sin and unbelief, and so empower us to put on ourselves the armor of light in this time of spiritual warfare that we may grow in faith, hope, love, holiness, and every good work, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have received healing under God's gracious blessing, especially Todd, let us give thanks to the Lord. For the homebound, the lonely, the depressed and anxious, those preparing for surgery and the ill, especially Ellen, Elizabeth, Marty, Paula, Kenneth, Dawn, Joyce, Carol, Don, Betty, Arlyn, Jessica, Lynne, Gary, Shandel, Linda, Don, Jodi, Ron, Aaron, Justin, Drew, Paul, Carolyn, and Marilyn, that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who mourn, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Carl, Heidi, Cole, Kayci, and Cooper Freeman, that our heavenly Father would bless them in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they may always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For right faith and true prayers, that what we ask from God may not be squandered after our passions, but pressed into His service for our neighbors, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Collect for Grace