

The Need for Followership: Followers of Christ Obey His Law from the Heart

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024



Trinity Lutheran Church is a family because God welcomed us into his family. Our mission is to grow closer to God, to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to share this sense of belonging with the surrounding community, welcoming more souls into the family of God.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A loving father gives his son and daughter a list of rules and regulations. Chores, curfews, civilities, dress code—the father makes his will clearly known. The son strives to follow the rules for two reasons. 1) He wants to get his allowance. 2) He is afraid that if he breaks the rules, his father will punish him. The daughter strives to follow the rules, also for two reasons. 1) She believes her father established those rules not to control her but for her safety and blessing. 2) She wants to demonstrate how much she loves and trusts her father. Those two children's actions might look almost identical. Their hearts are very different!

Likewise, following Christ is not simply a matter of outward observance of laws. It is a matter of the heart. The Law was given so we could see God's heart and demonstrate how his heart has affected our own. The followership Christ seeks flows from hearts that have been radically transformed by God's law and gospel. Christ wants his followers to be less like the son described above, and more like the daughter. This week we see that followers of Christ obey his law from the heart.

May God bless your worship.

Serving in Worship

Preacher
Organist

Pastor Matthew Langebartels
Becky Marotz

Greeting and welcome.

Hymn

697, May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

1 May we your precepts, Lord, fulfill
and do on earth our Father's will
as angels do above;
still walk in Christ, the living way,
with all your children, and obey
the law of Christian love.

2 So may we join your name to bless,
your grace adore, your pow'r confess,
to flee from sin and strife.
One is our calling, one our name,
the end of all our hopes the same:
a glorious crown of life.

3 Spirit of life, of love, and peace,
unite our hearts, our joy increase,
your gracious help supply.
To each of us the blessing give
in Christian fellowship to live,
in joyful hope to die.

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Please stand

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Confession of Sins

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

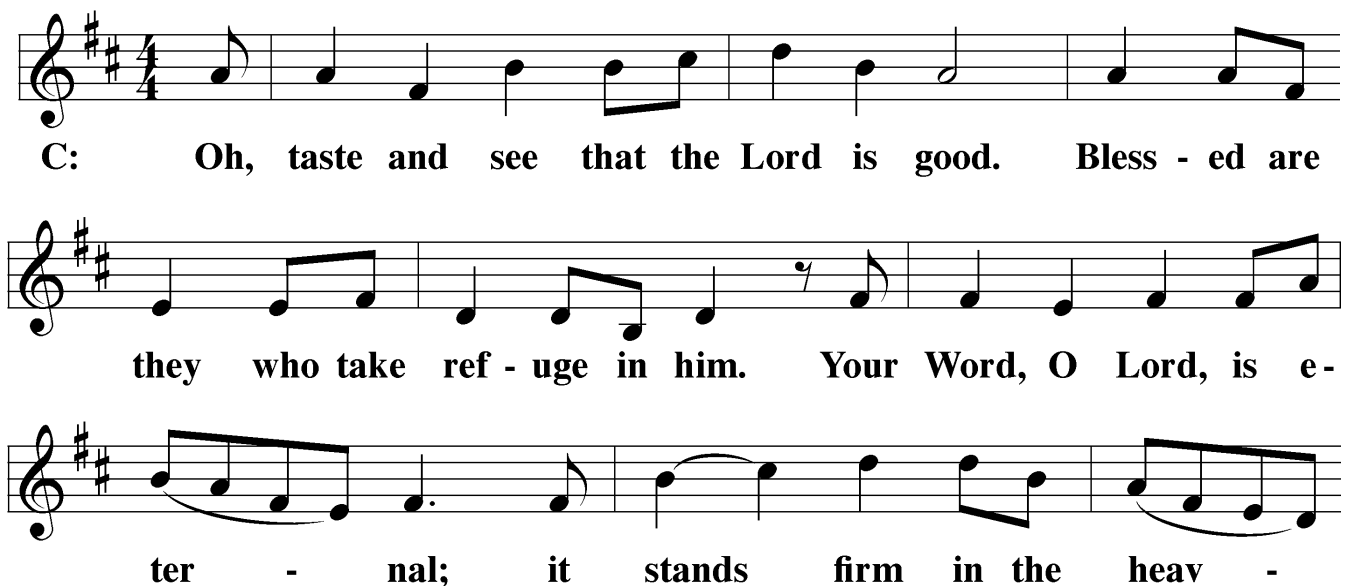
God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

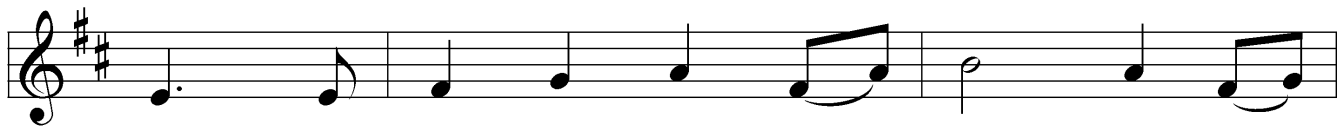
Prayer and Praise

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See



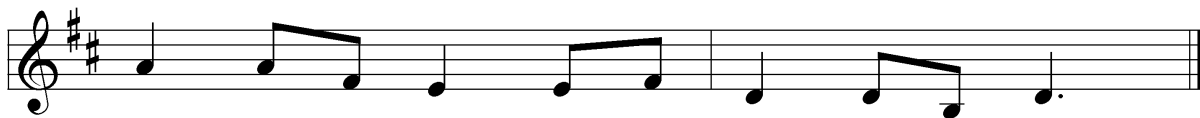
C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Please be seated

Children's Devotion

The children's devotion is a shortened version of the sermon intended to communicate God's truths in a simplified way. Children 12 and under are encouraged to come forward and participate in the devotion.

First Lesson

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9

God is serious about his law because he knows that when his children follow the law carefully, the result is blessing and honor.

¹Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land

the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

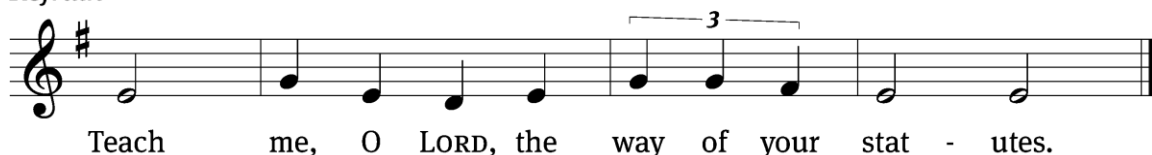
⁶Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” ⁷What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

⁹Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Psalm of the Day

119E, *Teach Me, O LORD*
Cong sings psalm in unison

Refrain



Your statutes are / wonderful;
therefore I o-/ bey them.

The unfolding of your words / gives light;
it gives understanding to the / simple.

Turn to me and have mer- /cy on me,
as you always do to those who / love your name. *Refrain*

Direct my footsteps according / to your word;
let no sin rule / over me.

Redeem me from human op-/ pression,
that I may obey your / precepts.

Make your face shine on your / servant
and teach me your decrees.

**Glory be to the Father and /to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be-/ ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

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Second Lesson

Romans 9:30—10:4

Followers of Christ obey the law, not to attempt to become righteous, but to show heartfelt love to the God who declares us righteous through faith in Jesus.

³⁰What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. ³²Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. ³³As it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall,
and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

¹Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. ²For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. ³Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. ⁴Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Please stand

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

Mark 7:1–8,14-15,21–23

The Pharisees established traditions which they thought safeguarded obedience to God, but they missed God's desire for heartfelt love.

¹The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus ²and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

⁶He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“ ‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

¹⁴Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

²¹For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²²adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

740, O God, My Faithful God

- 1 O God, my faithful God,
O Fountain ever flowing,
who good and perfect gifts
in mercy are bestowing,
give me a healthy frame,
and may I have within
a conscience free from blame,
a soul unhurt by sin.
- 2 Grant me the strength to do
with ready heart and willing
whatever you command,
my calling here fulfilling,
that I do what I should
while trusting you to bless
the outcome for my good,
for you must give success.

- 3 Keep me from saying things
that later need recalling;
grant that no idle words
may from my lips be falling,
but when within my place
I must and ought to speak,
then fill my words with grace
lest I offend the weak.
- 4 Lord, let me win my foes
with kindly words and actions,
and let me find good friends
for counsel and correction.
Help me, as you have taught,
to love both great and small
and by your Spirit's might
to live in peace with all.

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Sermon

Romans 9:30-10:4

Self-Righteous or Righteous in God?

Hymn

762, Lord, Bless Your Word to All the Young

- 1 Lord, bless your Word to all the young;
let them, your truth possessing,
declare your praise with heart and tongue,
their faith in Christ confessing.
From birth your firm embrace
has held them in your grace.
Baptized into your name,
redeemed and free from blame,
as your dear children keep them.

2 When faced with pressure, grief, or pain,
when Satan comes alluring,
may their baptismal grace remain
a refuge reassuring.
God's promises are sure;
his mercy will endure.
They shall not be undone
who trust in Christ alone;
God is their mighty Father!

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Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Friendship Registers

Offering

If you would like to give electronically, please visit www.trinitycoleman.org and click "Giving" or scan the QR code.



Please stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done**

on earth as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



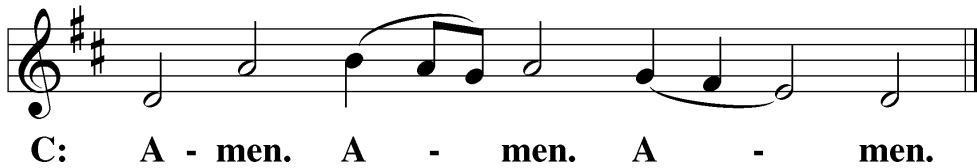
C: A - men.

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



Please be seated

Hymn

705, Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
to know and do his will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by your Word,
and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord,
but keep my conscience clear.
- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
a stricter watch to keep,
and should I e'er forget your way,
restore your wand'ring sheep.
- 4 Make me to walk in your commands—
'tis a delightful road—
nor let my head or heart or hands
offend against my God.

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Announcements

If it should ever be needed, we have an **AED** that is located behind the church basement door.

September midweek Bible classes-

- **Joining Jesus on His Mission** is an everyday evangelism Bible study on Tuesday evenings and starts on September 3. Please sign up with pastor. He has materials ready to hand out for those who signed up.
- **Connecting Sinai to Calvary** is a Bible study about how the Old Testament connects to the New Testament. It is taught by Dave Frievalt and is on Wednesday nights 6-7:30 p.m. starting September 4th. Sign up with Dave or Pastor.
- **Bible Information Class (BIC)** is the basics or a review of the basics. It is the intro to take before those other classes. If you haven't yet taken it, please consider. It is on Wednesdays starting September 4th 6-7:30 p.m.

Apologetics is a term used about defending the faith. "Why do we still believe in God when science has disproved it?" and other questions will be addressed. It will be a **Sunday morning Bible study** starting September 8th and run for 6 weeks. It will feature videos by Dr. Michael Berg, a professor at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

Women's Faith and Fellowship will meet on Tuesday September 10th at 6 pm. We will explore a Bible Study called Made for Friendship.

Attendance 8-25:		120
Offering 8-25:	\$	3,194.89
General Fund Balance as of 8-25:	\$	33,353.91

This week at Trinity...

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
8:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 9:30 am Worship Service	Labor Day No Preschool	6 pm Joining Jesus on His Mission	6 pm BIC & Connecting Sinai to Calvary	11:30 am Ladies Aid meet at Cheers then 1 pm meeting at Trinity		

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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