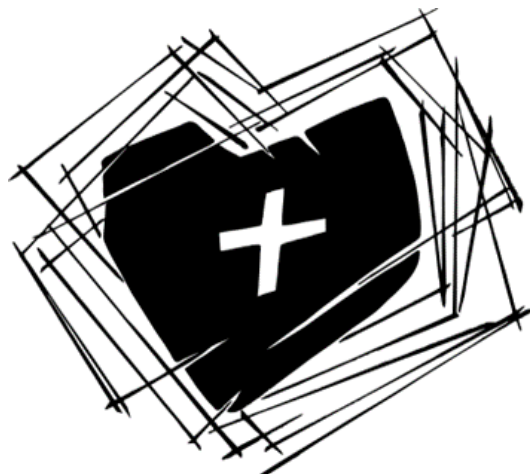


# The Season of Pentecost

## September 1, 2024



*Le Mars, Iowa*

**[www.livingfaithlemars.com](http://www.livingfaithlemars.com)**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*Worship together at 11:00 a.m.*



LFLC contact: Kay Michaelson 712-540-5368  
Pastor David Halaas 701-430-3393

We gather for worship

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Hymn #646** “*The Peace of the Lord*”

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign that is marked at baptism.*

We gather in the name of the Father, †  
Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us come before God,  
seeking forgiveness and life.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and saving God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that 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.**

In the name of † Jesus, the Son of God,  
receive mercy and find grace in your time of need.

Your sins are forgiven;

God’s love is healing.

Rejoice, for God raises you up  
to new life in Christ. **Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

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.**

Let us pray together:

**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.**

**Hymn #66** “*What Wondrous Love*”

*We hear God's Word for us*

**First Reading – 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia # 172

*We stand and sing to hear the Holy Gospel*

### Holy Gospel –

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter

**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.”

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn #725** *“When the Poor Ones”*

*We respond to the good news*

**Apostles’ Creed** *inside back cover of worship book*

**Prayers**

**Offering**

Welcome to God's Table

**Sharing words of Peace**

**Holy Communion**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*....let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Communion**

**Prayer and Blessing**

Let us together pray:

**We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us through  
the healing power of this gift of life.**

**In your mercy, strengthen us –  
that our living faith may bring peace and hope  
to all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

We go into God's world

**Benediction**

**Sending Hymn #726 "Light Dawns..."**

Go in Peace! Serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God!**