

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

The Second Reading

James 1:17-27

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Moses said: 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. 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.

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!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

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.

Psalm

Psalm 15

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

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. 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.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 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.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 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.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 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.

The Gospel Reading

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

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; 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.) 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?" 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; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Tommy & Melinda Smith in celebration of Eliza Speight's Birthday.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Gloria Richards in memory of her husband, Stan.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Margot Lindsey
 2nd: Michael Buckner
 3rd: Ruby Hahne
 3rd: Tasha Root
 4th: Gloria Richards
 11th: David Brown
 11th: Terisa Kirschke
 17th: Diane Buffington
 19th: Robyn Murphy
 19th: Roxanne Brink
 23rd: Kyle Glave
 24th: Caroline Tucker
 26th: Lillian Tucker
 27th: Helen Daniel
 27th: Ava Rook

This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, September 4, 2024
 6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, September 8, 2024
 10:00am Morning Prayer

Blessing of the Animals

Join us **Sunday, October 6th at 1:00 PM** for the Annual Blessing of the Animals. Dogs, Cats, and other pets-small and large, furry, and non-furry are all welcome. Kids are welcome to bring a stuffed animal to bless.

Please begin to bring dog food and other dog items to be donated to the local animal shelter.

Church Wide Bible Study

The study, titled "The Path," will commence on Sunday, **October 6th at 9:00 AM**. It features excerpts from Scripture guiding you from the creation narrative to the conclusion of Revelation. The primary coursebook for adults includes both the reading passages and study questions. Correspondingly, the Family Story book is organized into identical chapters, containing the same narratives along with discussion questions for families. Additionally, a coloring book will be offered. For those interested in purchasing any of these books, a sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate the flowers for the service, the Flower Dedication forms for 2024 are in the narthex.

Piney Woods September Brunch
Traditional Hymns to Contemporary Music
 St. Michael's & All Angels, 909 Reel Road, Longview 75604
 Saturday, September 14 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Please respond by September 3
Mail the \$10 registration fee to the church
You may mail several checks in one envelope!
See YOU then!
 Roxanne Brink 480-208-2966 Susan Kuhlman 903-918-2261

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Mtr. Tracey
- Andrew McWhorter
- Libby Menger
- The Akinson & Brown Family
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

Other Prayer Request:

- Jonathan secures employment, enabling the Bowman family to relocate to Longview.

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
08/04/24	\$3,541	\$3,302	\$239
08/11/24	\$1,121	\$3,302	-\$2,181
08/18/24	\$4,540	\$3,302	\$1,238
08/25/24	\$2,661	\$3,302	-\$641
YTD TOTALS	\$120,009	\$112,274	\$7,735

Next Sunday's Servers (09/08)

Acolytes: Javier Glave

Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown

Danny's Team: Susan Kuhlman

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Buffington

Greeter: Joe Frank Brown

Lector: Melinda Smith

Nursery Helper: Helen Daniel

Ushers: Donna Richardson, Michael Greathouse

Vestry People: Samantha Rauch, Susan Brown

Worship Tech: Wayne Workman

This Sunday's Servers

Acolytes: Jonathan Roberts

Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown

Danny's Team: Melinda Smith

Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Brown

Greeter: Roxanne Brink

Lector: Helen Daniel

Nursery Helper: Becky Supercinski, Carolyn Deakins

Ushers: Stan Williams, Tommy Read

Vestry People: Samantha Rauch, Susan Brown

Worship Tech: Tommy Smith

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church
 The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll
 Email: mothertracey@smaalongview.org
 Church Website: smaalongview.org
 Phone: (903) 759-2051