

Welcome to Worship

September 1st, 2024

Prelude

Gathering Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light ~ ELW 715

Prayer of the Day

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.

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.

Psalm

15



Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,

who speak the truth | from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;

they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the Lord.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

Second Reading

James 1:16-27

From the First Nations Version indigenous Bible translation

Do not be misled, my sacred family members. Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father above, who gave us the sun, moon and stars. But unlike them, the light

that comes from the Great Spirit never dims, flickers, or casts a shadow. Creator is the one who chose to birth us into being by his word of truth so that we would be the first of all creation to truly be who Creator made us to be.

Knowing this, my much-loved family members, we must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. For human anger will not take us down the path of Creator's right ways. So scrape off all the mud of your evil ways and humbly receive the message that the Great Spirit has planted deep within you. This will set your heart free and make your mind whole.

But make sure you do not fool yourselves. You must not only hear this message. You must also walk in its truth. For if you only hear but fail to walk true to the message, you are like a man who sees his own face reflected in a pool of water. Then, right after looking at himself, he walks away and forgets what he looks like. But take a good long look into the perfect way of life, the law of love that sets people free. Stay true to its message, not forgetting what you have heard but walking in all its ways, and Creator's blessing will rest on all you do.

All who represent themselves as spiritual but do not keep their tongue under control are only fooling themselves – their spirituality is worthless. But the one whose spirituality is pure and spotless before our Father the Great Spirit takes care of widows and orphans, and remains free from the evil of this world.

Gospel

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

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.

Hymn of the Day

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life ~ ELW 816

Musical Offering

*Here I Am, Lord ~ arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
(Hallelujah Ringers Small Group)*

Offertory Hymn

Feed Us with Hunger for Justice ~ ACS 968 (3x)

Communion Hymn

O Word of God Incarnate ~ ELW 514

Sending Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth ~ ELW 879

Postlude