



REJOICE FELLOWSHIP

A Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worshipping at 300 W Maple Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090
and online at [facebook.com/RejoiceFellowshipGlenBurnie](https://www.facebook.com/RejoiceFellowshipGlenBurnie)
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August 29, 2021 | 10:00 am
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
14th Sunday after Pentecost

C: indicates spoken responses by the congregation
P: indicates the Presiding Minister
A: indicates the Assisting Minister

Welcome to worship at Rejoice Fellowship! Helpful instructions for various parts of our worship will be included throughout this bulletin at relevant places. If you have any questions, please ask a greeter.

Please note that currently we are asking everyone to wear a mask during worship, out of an abundance of love, respect and concern for those who are unvaccinated, especially our children. Thank you.

✠ Gathering ✠

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

You are invited to stand.

GATHERING SONG

LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

You are invited to sit.

✠ Word ✠

FIRST READING

James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every 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. ¹⁸In fulfillment of the divine purpose God gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God's creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore 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.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But 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.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion 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.

A: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C: Alleluia. God gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would become a kind of first fruits of creation. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jewish people, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and 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.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He 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;

⁷in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

14Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

21For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, 22adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

You are invited to sit.

SERMON

PASTOR SUSAN BECK

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Following each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

A: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you.

You are invited to safely share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another. Please respect the boundaries of those present, as not everyone will be comfortable shaking hands or hugging yet.

⌘ Meal ⌘

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

Rejoice Fellowship is blessed by your generosity! Tithes and offerings can be given in a few ways: 1) electronically by clicking here: <https://rb.gy/ryhn0m>; 2) physical checks/cash can be placed in the plate as you enter our service this morning (please alert a greeter if you require assistance); and 3) physical checks/cash can be mailed to our office at 300 W Maple Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090. Thank you for opening your heart!

OFFERING PRAYER

C: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and faithfulness endures for age to age... Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold to pray,

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

If you have joined us in person, you will be guided to the front to receive communion. If you would like communion brought to you, please let a greeter know.

While our practice is usually to include bread and a cup, we are following the guidance of our Delaware Maryland Synod ELCA and communing in "one kind," that is, just with bread for now. Our theological understanding of Holy Communion is that receiving one element, like simply the bread, is still receiving the entire sacrament. You are welcome to the table.

If you are joining us through Facebook Live, we invite you to gather your own bread and wine or juice to receive the sacrament with us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

✠Sending ✠

BLESSING

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✠ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

You are invited to stand.

SENDING HYMN

GIVE US CLEAN HANDS

We bow our hearts, we bend our knees; Oh Spir - it, come make us hum -

4 F B \flat /C F C F/A B \flat

-ble. We turn our eyes from e - vil things; Oh Lord, we cast down our i -

CHORUS

8 F C

-dols. Give us clean _ hands, _ give us pure _ hearts; _ Let us

11 Dm C B \flat F

not lift our souls _ to an - oth - er. _ Give us clean _ hands, _ give us pure _ hearts; .

14 C Dm C B \flat

_ Let us not lift our souls _ to an - oth - er. And oh God, let us be _

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17 F C Dm C

— a gen - er - a - tion that seeks, — that seeks Your face, — oh — God — of Ja -

20 B♭ F C

- cob; — And oh God, let us be — a gen - er - a - tion that seeks, — that seeks Your face, .

23 Dm C B♭ F

— oh — God — of Ja - cob. —

You are invited to sit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION BUILDER UPDATE

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Today's Worship Leaders

- Preaching/Presiding Minister: Pastor Susan Beck
- Assisting Minister: Lisa Stokes
- Cameraperson: David Rinker
- Greeter: Inez Cage
- Altar Preparer: Inez Cage
- Music Director: Jan Brennan
- Volunteer Musician: Bob Hudgins
- Volunteer Vocal Leader: Tyler Ridenour

Announcements

Welcoming our guest, Pastor Susan Beck of the Community of St. Dysmas

Rejoice Fellowship is blessed to host Pastor Susan Beck this Sunday! Pastor Beck serves as pastor to the Community of St. Dysmas (CSD), a prison ministry within our synod, providing ministry of word and sacrament to individuals in four Maryland correctional institutions.

Read from Pastor Beck:

Thank you for inviting me back to Rejoice Fellowship to bring greetings from our siblings in faith of the Community of St Dysmas, the Lutheran congregations within the walls of the Maryland state prison system.

I never expected that ministry would take me “behind bars,” but I’m finding that that’s exactly where the gospel is—the message of God’s grace given freely in Jesus quite literally transforms the lives of our incarcerated siblings in Christ. That’s a joy!

Before accepting the call to be CSD pastor, I served two churches, St. John’s in Thurmont and as interim at Shepherd of the Glen in Glenwood. I am active in ecumenical and interfaith work, and serve on the board of Soul to Soul, in interfaith organization that seeks to promote understanding between faiths. As one of a growing number of bi-vocational pastors, my other call is to work with new and expectant parents as an instructor and consultant with Capital Women’s Care in Howard County.

I live in Woodbine, Md. With my husband Bill and a cranky cat named George. We have 3 grown children and six grandchildren, all of whom are blessedly local.

Upcoming Guest Preachers

Rejoice Fellowship is blessed to welcome several guest preachers to worship with us! Here’s who to expect over the next two weeks:

September 5: Brother Ryan Roberts, Order of Lutheran Franciscans

September 12: Deacon Julie Stecker, Assistant to the Bishop for Communications, Youth + Family Ministry

What’s Happening This Week

Sun., August 29	Worship – 10am in the Fellowship Hall at St. John’s, and on FB Live
Mon., August 30	
Tues., August 31	
Wed., September 1	Youth Group – 7pm
Thurs., September 2	Generosity Team Meeting
Fri., September 3	
Sat., September 4	Food Drive – 9:30-11am at the Church (Quarterfield Road)