

with even the momentary fear of the man most gently. That is how he always deals with us, one at a time, with perfect understanding and compassion. He allows the needs that we need and then helps and strengthens and ultimately delivers us at just the right moment and in just the right way. (Notice again Jesus' command after he has helped and healed; he wants no publicity to get in the way of his march to the cross and the ultimate help and salvation that he will win there for us.)

³¹ Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³² There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man.

³³ After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). ³⁵ At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶ Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷ People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Sermon Hymn: 235 Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him

Sermon: What do First-fruits Look Like?

Offertory: Grade 2 – 4 Hand Bells "The B-I-B-L-E"

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Presentation of Bibles: Ella Lange, Addy Statz & Hailey Thoma

Distribution Hymn: 280 Thy Strong Word

Benediction

Closing Hymn: 399 To God Be the Glory v. 1

Ushers:

This Week – Hunter Boettcher & Jeremy Foltz

Next Week – Jake Horta & Alex Ellifson

Greeters:

This Week – Sharon Waldmann

Next Week – Paul & Vicki Milbrath

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church

16th Sunday after Pentecost – September 8th & 9th, 2018



P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Beth Schumacher

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: pg. 26

Opening Hymn: 238 Oh, Bless The Lord My Soul

Prayer of the Day:

M: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Isaiah 35:4-7a

This reading depicts our spiritual needs in physical terms. Physical weakness and trouble mirror the absolute need in which we were born. Troubles, fears, weaknesses of every sort are often God's rich blessings; for they drive us to despair of our own strength and understanding and to be more ready to receive from his Word ears that hear and eyes that see. The reading is a promise of just such help from the Messiah, who alone can solve that absolute spiritual need and who alone rules over the physical reflections of that need so that they are turned to blessing. Yes, he does indeed do all things well!

⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." ⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 146 p. 120

Pastor – First Half; Congregation – Second half

Second Lesson - James 1:17-27

Calls for a sanctified life always find their basis and their motivation in the precious gospel message of God's gifts to us. His gifts are all good and perfect (even and especially the crosses—a point coming up on another Sunday) because God is changeless; he only knows how to give good and perfect gifts that suit our needs and fit our circumstances in life. But to recognize those gifts and to appreciate them and then make use of them in life we need the Word. The Word clears the clutter from

life and the temptation to hypocrisy from the heart by showing us the first and best gifts, the gifts of salvation and adoption. With such gifts how could we doubt that anything he does in our lives would be anything but good and perfect? Therefore, listen to the Word; be honest with God in confession; get on with the life that reflects the good and perfect gifts of God. For his gifts are given to us as a reflection of his goodness, so that we can reflect his goodness in our use of those gifts.

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Listening and Doing

¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Verse of the Day: *Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia. (Philippians 4:4 RSV)*

Gospel - Mark 7:31-37

That Jesus does all things well is, of course, biblical understatement. Consider just how well he does all things. There is nothing mechanical in his manner or method. He takes into account this individual's very individual needs. The poor man is frightened and comprehends nothing of what the crowd is doing with him. But Jesus understands. Jesus deals