

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
229 South Broad Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
570-398-1676

Sunday, August 13, 2023

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Blessing of the Keys



**Introduction to the day** *Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.*

## SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven

in the name of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: *Shout to the Lord* 821**

## **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.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: *Rock of Ages 623***

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P: Let us pray.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from First Kings

## **FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18**

*On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.*

<sup>9</sup>At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

<sup>11</sup>He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup>He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

**PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

L: A reading from Romans

**Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15**

*A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.*

<sup>5</sup>Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say?

"The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

<sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142**

*Alleluia Lord to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33**

*Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.*

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

<sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON "Who reached out his hand to Peter?"**

### **Blessing of the Keys**

P: All your works praise you, O lord;

**C: Blessed be God forever and ever**

P: You have made heaven and earth and all that is in it;

**C: Blessed be God forever and ever**

P: You appointed seasons and times for each activity;

**C: Blessed be God forever and ever.**

P: You have given generous gifts to your people through all the generations of humankind;

**C: Blessed be God forever and ever**

P: You have entrusted us with responsibility of managing the things of the earth

**C: Blessed be God forever and ever**

P: {Names} There is sadness in leaving the safety of childhood and also the excitement of new challenges ahead. The keys now in your parents' hands are signs of approaching maturity. As they entrust their keys to you, we pray for your wise discernment in their use and your responsibility.

P: Gracious God our Father, surround {names} with your protection, guide their coming and going, give them competent teachers and good examples, grant them sound judgment and remind them always of your love and care. Give patience and wise discernment to their parents, and a watchful eye to whole community.

**C: Blessed be God forever and ever.**

P: The blessing of God our Father, of Jesus Christ our Lord, and of the Holy Spirit, accompany you in all your journeys now and forevermore. Amen

**C: Blessed be God forever and ever. Amen**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* 756**

**APOSTLES CREED ( p. 105 at the beginning of the hymnal)**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of grace and faith, your faithfulness is never-ending, and your righteousness becomes ours through Christ Jesus. Send the church to proclaim the gospel both near and far, in church buildings and on street corners, in person and through digital means. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of sky and sea, the plants, animals, mountains, and plains proclaim your glory. Prosper the work of ecologists as they teach us new ways to care for the environment. Bring relief to areas recovering from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of peace and justice, you call us to live as your beloved community throughout the world. Instill in local, regional, national, and global political and civic leaders a desire to work for the well-being of all people. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of care and compassion, you bring assurance when we are afraid. Bring calm to any who are anxious or fearful. Bless the work of therapists, nurses, and other health care providers. Comfort all who grieve and soothe any who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of wonder, you accompany us in both joys and sorrows. We pray for children and teachers preparing for a new school year. Make your presence known in our work and play, in lively conversation and in quiet rest. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Benevolent God, we uplift our missionaries in Liberia – Rev. Linda Johnson Seyenkulo and Rev. Brian Palmer. Bless their work with the evangelists and seminary students as they study your word, teach and proclaim the gospel. May the students return to their communities prepared to share your message of love, grace and forgiveness.

Hear us O God

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: God of new life, you send people to renew both church and society. We give you thanks for their lives of faithful service (*especially nursing pioneers Florence Nightingale and Clara Maass, whom the church remembers today*) as examples of following your call. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### **A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144** *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

**Dialogue**

**Holy Holy Holy**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

#### **Words of Institution**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER P 145** *(in the beginning of the hymnal)*

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: All people are called to Christ's table.

Come, eat what is good.

### **COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

### **Communion Song** *Lamb of God You Take Away p.146*

### **SONG AFTER COMMUNION** *Jesus, Remember Me*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### **BLESSING** by Pastor

### **SENDING SONG:** *When Peace, Like a River 785*

**DISMISSAL P:** Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements**

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate during the receiving of the offering. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshippers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ.”

**Remember in prayer:** Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Christine and Dave Barner, Linda Caris, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Dina George, Barb Hoffman, Mick Miller, Cora Pelletier, Shane Snyder, Nancy Wolfe, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton – ELCA; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany.

We pray for the safety of our military troops around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on often with added stress.

Thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector –Karen Aucker; Assisting Ministers—Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Kaye Long; Teller –Jim Ely; Bulletin Sponsor – Mike and Ruth Aldridge.;     Flowers—Nicole Scott.

Next weeks’ helpers: Lector – Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers—Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Kaye Long; Teller –Jim Ely; Bulletin Sponsor – Mike and Ruth Aldridge; Flowers—Deb Heydrich.

The flowers are to the glory of God and in honor of Andrew and Nicole Scott’s Anniversary.

The Sanctuary Candle in August is given by Myrtle Long in memory of her sister

**Women of the Church** will meet after worship on Sunday, August 20.

The Lutheran Church Women’s Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597     Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Mark your calendar for a **PICNIC** on Sunday, August 27 after church. Plan to bring a dish to share. Chicken is the meat of the day!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for the **LUKE STRONG 125 mile ride** on Saturday, September 2 by Parks-Dean Team. Donations are to assist with a handicap bathroom for Luke. Checks can be made out to Luke Antolick Benefit Fund.

This bulletin and more can be found on our church website: [www.stjl.org](http://www.stjl.org).

**COVERAGE DURING VACATION** Pastor and Karen will be away on vacation August 14-18. Pastor Dutch Rinker will be covering 570-295-6598.

### Calendar

Sunday, August 13, 2023 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
with Blessing of the Keys

Monday -Friday, August 14-18 Pastor on Vacation  
Pastor Dutch Rinker will be covering 570-295-6598

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
Shore Diner

Sunday, August 20, 2023 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
with Blessing of Students and Teachers  
10:30 Women of the Church meeting

Monday, August 21, 2023 6:00 p.m. Christian Ed  
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Planning

