

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

Sunday, September 12, 2021
16th Sunday after Pentecost

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday



Introduction to the day

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

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.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.
Amen.

P. Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Lift High the Cross 660*

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: *Glorious Thing of You Are Spoken 647*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**
³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.
⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**
⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
⁶**The LORD watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**
⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.
⁸**For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**
⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and

cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *God's Work, Our Hands see insert*

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters (*recent destructive events may be named here*). Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of love, you call on us to serve our neighbors and help them deepen their faith. We give you thanks that you have sent your Spirit to guide us in this work. We ask your blessings on the Lutheran World Federation as they work to connect, educate, and serve others through the global Lutheran church. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear out prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Our Offerings

CHOIR ANTHEM *Here's My Life*

OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,

you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.

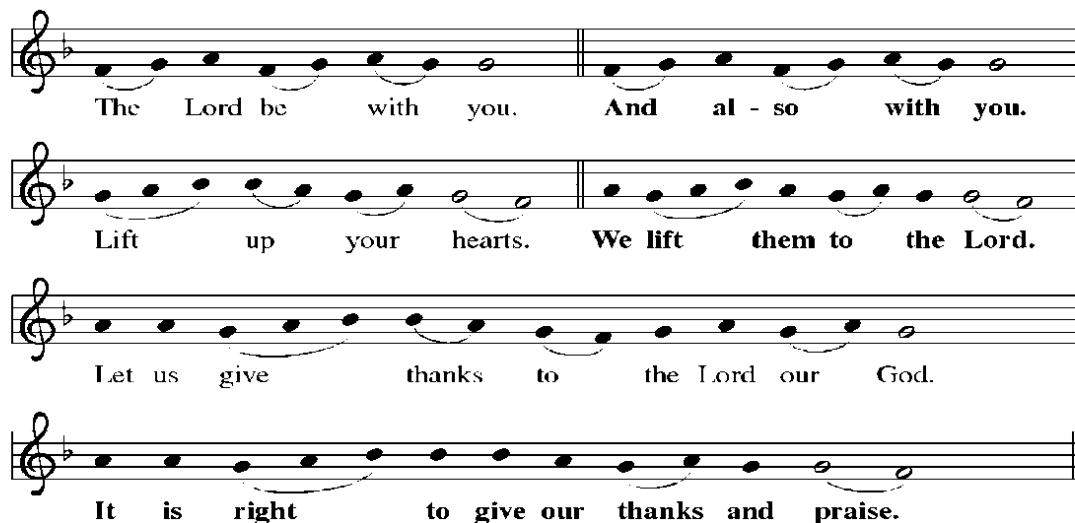
Accept the gifts you have first given us.

Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

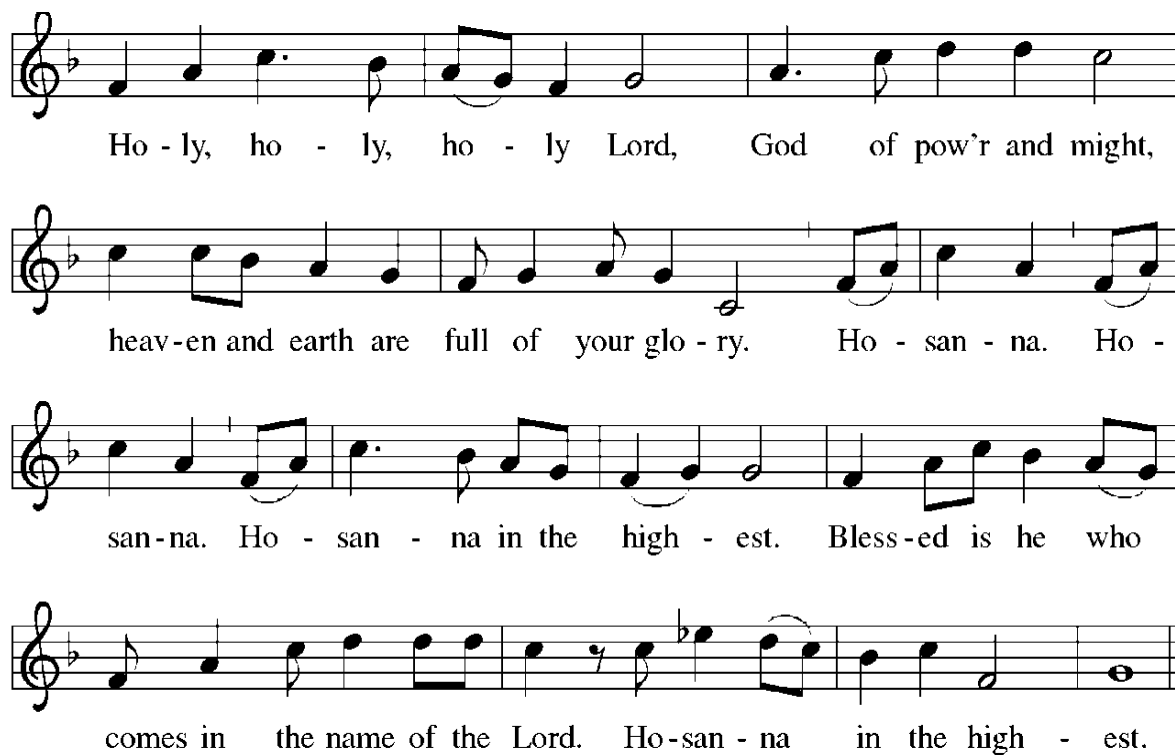
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DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE BY PASTOR HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;
you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light;

you nourish the lands with water.
You molded us in your image,
and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God,
 receive our praise and petitions,
 as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
 and fill us with your blessing,
 until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
 we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
 through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
 with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

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 a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

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

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* 733

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
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 worshipers 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, Luke Antolick, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, David Kuehl, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Ruth Nice, Jean Ann Snyder, Shane Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Richie and Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Special Thanks to this week's helpers: Lector–Karen Aucker; Assisting Ministers – Bill Ely, Jr and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Betty Allen; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon.

Next week's helpers: Lector – Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers – Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher – Betty Allen; Teller – Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – Cynthia Breon; Flowers – Tonya and Tyson Welshans

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored by Myrtle Long during the month of September in loving memory of her brother.

The altar flowers are given by Kathy and Ron Brundick in grateful thanks to God for 53 years together.

There will be a **Women of the Church** meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, September 19. Please make plans to attend!

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 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659 Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

We celebrate as Molly Hyland and Justin Lewis celebrate the rite of Holy Matrimony on Saturday, September 18, at 4:30 p.m. in Philadelphia. Pastor Aucker will be officiating.

Pastor Aucker will be away in Philadelphia for the wedding and taking a few days off. **Pastor Karl Runser will be covering September 17-24. For pastoral emergencies Pastor Runser can be contacted at 570-725-2155.**

Pastor Aucker will be showing a video of his tour of the Holy Land from January 2020 on Monday, September 13, at 10:00 a.m. at St. John Lutheran. Seeing the video helps bring the scriptures to life. Bring a covered dish to share after the video at 11:00 a.m. For those who miss the Monday viewing, feel free to join us at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wednesday, September 15 at 11:00 a.m. following Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, September 12, 2021 *16th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service *God's Work -- Our Hands Sunday*
10:30 a.m. after Service, cookies and ice cream for Pastor's 65th birthday on 9/14
7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Monday, September 13, 2021 PB & J Day
10:00 Video of the Holy Land. Bring a dish to share for lunch
Boy Scouts 7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Wednesday, September 15, 2021
10:00 a.m. Communion Trinity Episcopal Church
11:30 a.m. Fellowship time at Shore Diner
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. N/A meeting

Sunday, September 19, 2021 *17th Sunday after Pentecost*
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service *Gary Johnson leads Worship*
10:20 a.m. Women of the Church Meeting
7:00 p.m. NA meeting

God's Work, Our Hands

1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er, build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er, fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er, prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us: seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!

rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens, feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom, run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice, claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored, gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.

Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way, shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,

Text: Wayne L. Wold
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson
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