

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

Sunday, September 3, 2023

14th Sunday after Pentecost



### **Introduction to the day**

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

### **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 God, the one who forms us,  
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you  
and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *For the Beauty of the Earth* 879

**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:** *Glory to God in the Highest* p. 139 front of hymnal

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P: Let us pray.**

**O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

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

L: A reading from Jeremiah

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 15:15-21

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.  
<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.  
<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

**Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.  
<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**  
<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.  
<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**  
<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.  
<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**  
<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.  
<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

L: A reading from Romans

**Second Reading:** Romans 12:9-21

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of

the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28**

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Day by Day 792**

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God of glory, in the fullness of your time the nations of the world will flock to you. Bless the work of the Lutheran World Federation which seeks to bring your peace and reconciliation to the nations of the world. May your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Merciful God

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor (*especially*). Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM *One Step He Leads***

**A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION**

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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: Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

### **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 Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### **SENDING**

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

**BLESSING** The God of glory,

✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,

and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** *Lift High the Cross 660*

**DISMISSAL P:** Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C: Thanks be to God**

*We extend our sympathies to the family of Nancy Wolfe who died on August 28, 2023.*

*A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2023. Visitation 1:00-2:230 p.m. in the Sanctuary and Service at 2:30 p.m. with a luncheon to follow.*

## 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, Jim Allen, Christine and Dave Barner, Linda Caris, Agnes Cryder in Geisinger BP732, Don & Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Dina George, Barb Hoffman, Mick Miller, Elsie Parks in Haven Place, Cora Pelletier, Shane Snyder, 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 weeks' helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers—Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Gina Johnson; Teller –Christine Barner; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Darlene Bilby; Assisting Ministers—Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Children's Church -- Pam Wehler; Head Usher –Gina Johnson; Teller –Christine Barner; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits; Flowers – Wehler.

The flowers are to the glory of God and in celebration of our wedding anniversary. We were married September 8, 1962, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pine Grove Mills, PA by the Rev. Robert Rohrbaugh. Bill and Karyl Garner.

The Sanctuary Candle in September is given by Myrtle Long in memory of her brother.

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

**Birthday Card Shower Celebration for Agnes Cryder's 97th Birthday!** Join in the celebration by mailing a birthday card to Agnes beginning the week of September 4th! Agnes will be turning 97 on September 12th. The more birthday cards she receives the merrier it will be! **Address:** Agnes Cryder 201 S. Broad Street Apt.2 Jersey Shore, PA 17740

The **LUKE STRONG 125 mile ride** was 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).

**RALLY SUNDAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL** is Sunday, September 10. We are planning a kick-off event for the start of this year's Children's Church. Our weekly attendance during the school year has been growing as we bring our children together for a Bible lesson and activity at the beginning of worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Come join us for this fun faith-building event.

**The BENEFIT of church choirs**, from an article in the Washington Post-- the physical & mental health benefits of singing with others. Choirs are large families, said the paper. Singing in them promotes social bonding & joy. Choir members are more optimistic, less lonely, more likely to contribute positively to community. A sense of achievement comes from creating notes with the body & working together to master a work. The text is often inspiring & beautiful, so despite the day's travails, choir members leave rehearsals feeling "this is a very positive thing that I can be a part of." The Bible knew that all along. Choirs are a biblical part of God's scheme of worship! Don't miss it in your church! The Choir Members knew this all along. PLEASE come join us! Requirements: move your lips and smile. Wednesdays at 6:30.

**Seafarer's Bags** are due November 1 (It's fast approaching!) The bags, list, and directions are on the table in the office. Our very own Pastor Martha McCracken was on the board of Seafarer's International and served as their president.

**Bible Study books** on the Gospel of Mark are available in the office. Help yourself. Bible study will begin September 18 at 10:00 am. Note the date and time change back to 10:00 a.m.

### Calendar

Sunday, September 3, 2023 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Tuesday, September 5, 2023 2:00 p.m. Communion at JS Skilled Nursing  
6:00 p.m. Council  
Wednesday, September 6, 2023 6:30 Choir Rehearsal  
Thursday, September 7, 2023 4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes  
Friday, September 8, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution  
Sunday, September 10, 2023 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Sunday School Rally Day!  
1:00-2:30 pm Visitation  
2:30 pm "Celebration of Life" service for Nancy Wolfe  
3:30 pm Time of Fellowship

