

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

Sunday, October 22, 2023

21th Sunday after Pentecost



**Children's Church will meet upstairs in the youth Sunday School room at end of the hallway at 9:30 a.m. Please take your child there before worship begins.**

### **Introduction to the day**

*In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*

## **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.*

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: *Holy, Holy, Holy* 413**

**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: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* 834**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image;  
created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours,  
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 Isaiah

**FIRST READING: *Isaiah 45:1-7***

*The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile.  
The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of  
light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.*

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—  
and the gates shall not be closed:  
<sup>2</sup>I will go before you  
and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

<sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name,  
I surname you, though you do not know me.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the LORD do all these things.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

**Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**  
<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**  
<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.  
<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**  
<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.  
[ <sup>10</sup>**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples  
with equity."**  
<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.  
<sup>12</sup>**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**  
<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.

L: A reading from First Thessalonians

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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 22:15-22**

*After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.*

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the

things that are God's." 22When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON Remember Who Created You**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Lift Every Voice and Sing 841**

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants (*especially*). Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering (*especially*). Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of all nations, we are grateful for the relationship that we share with our companion synod, the Augsburg-Wurzburg Kirchenkreis, part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, Germany. Unite our hearts and minds in prayer and support for one another as we share our faith across the globe. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM *Come Now and Praise His Name***

**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**

**SENDING SONG: *God of Grace and God of Glory* 705**

**DISMISSAL P:** Go in peace. God is at work 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, 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, Bob Moriarity, 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, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

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.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers—Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Children’s Church –Holly Dittmar; Head Usher –Shelby Rice; Teller – Deb Heydrich; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits.

Next weeks’ helpers: Lector –Pam Wehler; Assisting Ministers—Cozette Stoltzfus, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Shelby Rice; Teller –Deb Heydrich; Bulletin Sponsor – Sue Willits; Flowers -- C. Breon.

The flowers are to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Dave and Christine Barner.

The flowers on the organ are to the glory of God, in memory of Beth and in honor of the Wehlers by JeanAnn Snyder.

The Sanctuary Candle in October is in honor of family birthdays by Agnus Cryder.




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

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

**WOMEN OF THE CHURCH.** A meeting is also planned for **Sunday, November 19.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO** purchased, donated and made **APPLE DUMPLINGS!** Special thanks to master baker Pete and Barbara and Joyce for their expertise. Profit from our sale was \$1,188.

 **CALLING ALL CHILI LOVERS**  Mark your calendar October 22 Chili cook off ...Our Social for the month, following Worship, will be a Fund Raiser for Pastors Discretionary Fund! We need your help! If you willing to make a crockpot of Chili please let someone on council know! We will be selling bowls of Chili  for \$5.00, that will include a roll, dessert & drink! (Chicken noodle soup has been added for non-chili eaters) And for \$1 you get 5 samples and ballots to vote for your Favorite CHILI! If we have extras will sell takeouts! Hope to see you there!

**IT'S BUDGET TIME!!!** Committee chairs please submit your proposed budget for 2024 to Bob Dittmar by Oct 22.

Pastor Aucker is hosting a **First Communion class** for anyone who has not completed instruction in the proper reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The class will be held on either Sunday, October 22 or October 29 at 8:45 am in the Sanctuary. Children should come with their parents.

All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2023 we will be remembering  
Candace Louise Welshans 3/10/2023 David Mitchell 4/14/2023  
Jack Rishel 5/1/2023 Mary Jane Zinn 7/22/2023  
Nancy Ott Wolfe 8/28/2023

**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.

Ever have thoughts of being a missionary? Of serving in a ministry in another country for a short time period? We welcome all of our Middle School and High School Youth to join us on Sunday, November 19 for lunch and a presentation by Claire Weisner who served as a Young Adult in Global Missions in Argentina/Uruguay. Claire is from Trinity Lutheran, Milton, and will speak about her experiences providing ministry in two other countries. I'm sure there will be room if adults would like to join us. I'm setting up a Zoom meeting so if you cannot attend and want to join by zoom, contact Pastor Aucker. I would like to see all eighty of our youth attend.

**HOLIDAY BUS TRIP** Saturday, Dec. 2 with JS Garden Club. "A Delightful Day at Longwood Gardens." Details on the bulletin boards and see Molly Hollick.

**SAVE THE DATE!!** Christmas Bazaar will be Saturday, December 9.



## Calendar

Sunday, October 22, 2023 21st Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m.. Adult Sunday School

8:45 a.m. First Communion Class

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church

10:30 Chili Cook Off; \$5.00

1:00 p.m. Worship at Nippenose Village

2:00 p.m. Catechism Class

**BUDGETS DUE TO BOB DITTMAR**

Monday, October 23, 2023 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 29, 2023 Reformation Sunday

8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

8:45 a.m. First Communion Class

9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Children's Church and FAIRPLAY

BRASS

