

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

Sunday, June 11, 2023

2nd Sunday after Pentecost



### **Introduction to the day**

*Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord's day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God's mercy for the 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 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: *Morning Has Broken* 556**

**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: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* 835**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

**O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, 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 Hosea

**FIRST READING: Hosea 5:15--6:6**

*Because the people have trusted in military powers and not God, God decides to withdraw from the scene until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God's face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.*

<sup>15</sup>I will return again to my place  
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.  
In their distress they will beg my favor:

<sup>6:1</sup>“Come, let us return to the LORD;  
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;  
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

<sup>2</sup>After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.

<sup>3</sup>Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;  
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us like the showers,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

<sup>4</sup>What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?

Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,  
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,  
and my judgment goes forth as the light.

<sup>6</sup>For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

**PSALM:** Psalm 50:7-15

<sup>7</sup>“Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you;  
for I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup>**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;  
your burnt offerings are always before me.**

<sup>9</sup>I will not accept a calf from your stalls, nor goats from your pens;

<sup>10</sup>**for all the wild animals of the forest are mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.**

<sup>11</sup>I know every bird of the mountains, and the creatures of the fields are mine.

<sup>12</sup>**If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

<sup>13</sup>Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

<sup>14</sup>**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and make good your vows to the Most High.**

<sup>15</sup>Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

L: A reading from Romans

**Second Reading:** Romans 4:13-25

*Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God’s promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.*

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 9:9-13, 18-26

*Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.*

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup>And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup>But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup>Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

<sup>18</sup>While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup>And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. <sup>20</sup>Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, <sup>21</sup>for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." <sup>22</sup>Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. <sup>23</sup>When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, <sup>24</sup>he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup>But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. <sup>26</sup>And the report of this spread throughout that district.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven 864**

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray, O God, for the church. Unite us with any on the margins, that the whole world recognizes that your mercy is greater than our human capacity to restrict it. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We pray, O God, for creation. Tend forests and fields and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans and send rains to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We pray, O God, for the nations. Awaken in our leaders compassion for people who have too often felt forgotten or neglected, and inspire policy solutions that promote equity and inclusion. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We pray, O God, for all who are in need. Accompany anyone enduring chronic illness, any who suffer in secret, and those grieving a loved one's death. Send healing for all who plead for relief from sickness or pain (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We pray, O God, for the eradication of racial hatred. On this week when we commemorate the Emanuel Nine, we implore you to cast out the demons of white supremacy that make us believe lies about ourselves and our neighbors. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We pray, O God, that **you** bless and strengthen those who provide training and education for all levels of health ministry, from community health workers to nurses and midwives, doctors and specialists. Help them to share skills, knowledge, and mutual respect. God in your mercy...

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We give thanks, O God, for Barnabas and all the saints (*especially*). Renew our faith that you can do what you have promised and raise us, with all our beloved dead, to new life. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **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**

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**

**Preface by the Pastor**

**Holy Holy Holy**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

### **Words of Institution**

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.  
You rescued your covenant people, led them on all their journeys,  
and taught them by the prophets.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life

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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,  
and make us one in this community  
of faith and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,  
Author of life, Word made flesh,  
Power of the Most High, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **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** The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed

✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG: *O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate* 772**

**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 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, Carolyn Arthur, Christine and Dave Barner, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Barb Hoffman, Mick Miller, 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 we pray for peace in Ukraine and an end to war; those effected by the tornadoes and flooding and snow.

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, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, 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 – Karen Aucker; Assisting—Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher--Brayden Wehler; Teller –Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor—C. Breon.

Next weeks' helpers: Lector –Cozette Stoltzfus; Assisting Ministers—Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Brayden Wehler; Teller –Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor – C Breon; Flowers--Gary and Gina Johnson.

The flowers are to the glory of God and in loving memory of our son and brother's 53<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Love forever from Mom, Dad and Shane.

The Sanctuary Candle in June is in memory of our son and brother Rick by Bob, Jean Ann, and Shane Snyder.

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

You're all invited – Food – Fun – and Fellowship

We will be honoring all Fathers & Sons with a picnic lunch and Sundae Bar (ice cream provided by Phil-it Up) on Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> following the service. **EVERYTHING WILL BE PROVIDED SO PLEASE STAY AND ENJOY!**

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

### Calendar

Sunday, June 11, 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.      Worship Service

10:30    Outreach meeting after church

3:00 p.m. Ordination of Carol Johnson, Redeemer Lutheran

Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17, 2023 - Synod Assembly

Sunday, June 18 , 2023      3<sup>rd</sup>Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m.      Worship Service

