

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Sunday, June 22, 2025
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
The Rev. Dr. Kerry Aucker, Pastor



INTRODUCTON *This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."*

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG *When Morning Guild the Skies* 653

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✠ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,

but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness,

and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,

and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus

and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✠ Christ,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world.
In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, 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 65:1-9**

The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

¹ I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.
I said, "Here I am, here I am,"
to a nation that did not call on my name.
² I held out my hands all day long
to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;
³ a people who provoke me
to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens
and offering incense on bricks;
⁴ who sit inside tombs
and spend the night in secret places;
who eat the flesh of pigs,
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;
⁵ who say, "Keep to yourself;
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."
These are a smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that burns all day long.
⁶ See, it is written before me:
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will indeed repay into their laps
⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,
says the LORD;
because they offered incense on the mountains
and reviled me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
full payment for their actions.
⁸ Thus says the LORD:
As the wine is found in the cluster,

and they say, "Do not destroy it,
for there is a blessing in it,"
so I will do for my servants' sake
and not destroy them all.
⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it,
and my servants shall settle there.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm: **Psalm 22:19-28**

- ¹⁹ But you, O LORD, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.
²⁰ **Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.**
²¹ Save me from the lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.
²² **I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**
²³ You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
²⁴ **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is
the LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**
²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
²⁸ **For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

L: A reading from Galatians

Second Reading: **Galatians 3:23-29**

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one

in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

Alleluia, Lord, to who shall we go?

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

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

²⁶ Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly will stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY Baptized In Water 456

The baptism for Van Wyatt Myers, the son of Matthew Myers and Rian Kibby.

HOLY BAPTISM P. 227

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Clothe us in Christ, shower us in mercy, send us in love. Strengthen the faith and witness of Christians across the planet and Christians in our community. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for creation. Deliver the earth from disaster, bring forth life amid uncertainty, inspire wonder at all you have made. Sustain all people who delight in the well-being of your creation: farmers, agricultural workers, gardeners, birdwatchers, conservationists, scientists, advocates, and policy makers. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the nations. Pave a way to justice, drown the forces of oppression, bring peace on earth. Give leaders the will to turn from war and violence (*areas in crises may be named*).

When people must flee their homes, guide them to safety. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for people in need. Satisfy all who are poor, soothe those in pain, accompany all who are sick (*especially*). Give perseverance to each of us living with mental illness, and shield us from discrimination due to race, class, gender, or any other human distinction. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for this assembly. Listen to our cries, come to our aid, make us one. Weave among us the fabric of belonging so that we rejoice in each person gathered here, and enliven our proclamation of how much you have done for us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Compassionate God, we pray for your continued blessings upon those who have served and those who are preparing to serve as Young Adults in Global Mission. Continue to use them as your instruments of compassion as they minister to people and communities in the United Kingdom, Central Europe, West Africa, Southeast Asia and Central and South America. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Keep them in your peace, comfort us in sorrow, raise us to new life. As we remember their faith and witness, may we trust your promise that we are yours forever. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Once the Table is Prepare, the assembly will stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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

The Lord's Prayer p. 145

Invitation to Communion

P: The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

The assembly is seated.

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.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus, Remember Me*

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

A: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.

Send us out by your Spirit

to love our neighbors as ourselves

and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit

✠ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: *Born Cry* 732

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

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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 at the front or rear of the church. 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, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Cindy Ferguson, Joanne Fisher, Beth Good, Erica Kastner, Myrtle Long, Charles McCracken, Jeanann Snyder, Tyson Welshans, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Family Promise; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; 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, Rich 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.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting Ministers—Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Head Usher Bill Ely; Teller—Roman Dittmar Bulletin-- the Wehlers.

Next weeks’ helpers: Lector –Pam Wehler; Assisting Ministers—Karen Aucker, Cozette Stoltzfus; Head Usher Bill Ely; Teller—Roman Dittmar; Bulletin – the Wehlers; Flowers—Barbara Hoffman

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle in June is to the Glory of God and in Memory of Rick Snyder by JeanAnn, Bob and Shane Snyder.

The Council asks that in addition to those who are ill, we **pray for a family each week**. This week please pray for Joyce Hudson.

Please sign up and help with the weekly service! On the bulletin board in the tower is a calendar to sign up to donate bread, a green sheet for flowers, a blue sheet with two openings for the Sanctuary Candle, and a pink sheet to sponsor the bulletin.

Anyone interested in joining a **texting prayer chain** please text Christine Barner at 570-360-0178. This texting chain will send out the prayers that are received for the calling prayer chain. This chain is a **one-way chain**, please do not "reply" when you receive a message.

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.

We are making a major appeal during the next few months for **Cheerios** (plain, low sugar). In this time of uncertainty in funding from the USDA and State we are making an appeal for regular size boxes of cheerios and calling it the “Healthy Start” campaign. If children, adults, and seniors have a healthy breakfast it makes an incredible difference to their day. Our goal is to collect 900 boxes of cheerios by the end of July. The food bank doesn’t always have cereal available. **Your donations of cheerios** can make a huge impact upon people here in our community and surrounding area.

YOUTH

July 13th - Rails to trails bike ride at 1:00 pm at Waterville Park.

CALENDAR

Sunday, June 22	9:30 am worship
	1:00 pm Nippenose worship
Sunday, June 29	9:30 am worship
Sunday, July 13	5:30 pm Vacation Bible School

