

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

Sunday, June 25, 2023

4th Sunday after Pentecost



### **Introduction to the day**

*God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in 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: HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION 796**

## **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: *Beautiful Savior* 838**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray

**Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, 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 20:7-13**

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.*

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.  
<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out,  
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.  
<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him,  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.  
<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering:  
"Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.  
"Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him,  
and take our revenge on him."  
<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;

therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.  
<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

**PSALM: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18**

<sup>7</sup>Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.  
<sup>8</sup>**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**  
<sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.  
<sup>10</sup>**I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.**  
<sup>11</sup>I put on sackcloth also,  
and became a byword among them.  
<sup>12</sup>**Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.**  
<sup>13</sup>But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:  
"In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.  
<sup>14</sup>**Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;  
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**  
<sup>15</sup>Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;  
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.  
<sup>16</sup>**Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn to me.**  
<sup>17</sup>Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.  
<sup>18</sup>**Draw near to me and redeem me;  
because of my enemies deliver me.**

L: A reading from Romans

**Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11**

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 10:24-39**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace,

but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup>and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

<sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Borning Cry* 732**

**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.*

You entice your church to speak truth that challenges false notions of peace. Prevail upon us with the good news of Christ's death and resurrection, that we are compelled to share the gospel with all the world. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Under your watch not even a sparrow goes unnoticed. Safeguard plant and animal habitats threatened by melting glaciers, rising oceans, and receding coastlines. Amplify the voices of those calling for responsible stewardship of the earth's resources. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Our world is enduring violence and destruction. Rescue your people in nations experiencing conflict or crisis (*especially*). Thwart the efforts of those who sow chaos and terror, and guide those working to bring about peace and reconciliation. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: You have counted even the hairs of our heads. Reassure anyone experiencing poverty, homelessness, unemployment, or exploitation that every life has value. Look favorably upon all who struggle (*especially*). Answer us, for your steadfast love is good. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Even when we experience rejection your love invites us to new life. Lift up anyone who feels shunned or excluded on account of their gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or any other human distinction. Make your people one. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of the Covenant, continue to bless the partner relationship between our Upper Susquehanna Synod and the Ansbach-Wurzburg Kirchenkreis of Germany. Keep open the lines

of communication among our respective church leaders. Guide us in our work to support one another in our sharing the Gospel and in our serving others in need. God in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: All who have died with Christ also live with him. We give thanks for (*Philipp Melancthon and*) all the saints whose faithful confession inspired our own discipleship, and raise us, with them, to eternal life. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: 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:** *The Church Is One Foundation 654*

**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, Christine and Dave Barner, Agnes Cryder, Don & Helen Delaney, Joanne Fisher, Dina George, 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.

Thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting--Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Head Usher-Brayden Wehler; Teller –Bob Wehler; Bulletin Sponsor—C. Breon.

Next weeks’ helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers—Deb Heydrich. Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – B. Allen; Flowers-- Myers

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our anniversary by Dean and Barb Hoffman.

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!

We welcome **donation to support our missionary** in Liberia, Brian Palmer. Two plastic jugs are available in the front and back of the sanctuary for cash donations or write a check to St John Lutheran with a memo to Brian Palmer.



Town Meeting **Parade July 6!** Come watch at St John or swing by for Hot dogs, chips and drink before the parade. Benefits the Youth going to New Orleans 2024.

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

**FIESTA VBS.** July 16-20 at Trinity Methodist. 3 years old to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. St John needs someone to help with Sunday, July 16 registration, and we need to provide snacks and volunteers to help Tuesday, July 18. Nightly volunteers. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. would be great! See Molly Hollick

### Calendar

Sunday, June 25, 2023	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 a.m.	Worship Service
10:30 a.m.	Fun, Food, Fellowship, Fathers & Son Picnic. All are Invited!
1:00 p.m.	Worship at Nippenose
Sunday, July 2, 2023	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 a.m.	Worship Service



**FIESTA Vacation Bible School**

**WHEN: July 16-20**

**Open Registration – Sunday from 6-7:30PM**

**Monday -Thursday 6-8PM** (Crafts, music, games, and Bible stories)

**AGES: 3yrs old – 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Come join us!!!!**