



Introduction to the day

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In Holy Communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

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,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* 888

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: *God Bless Our Native Land* 891

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through 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 Isaiah

FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:10-14

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

¹⁰Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy,
all you who mourn over her—

¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied
from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious bosom.

¹²For thus says the LORD:
I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and dandled on her knees.

¹³As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;
and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,
and his indignation is against his enemies.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 66:1-9

¹Be joyful in God, all you lands;
be joyful, all the earth.

²**Sing the glory of God's name;
sing the glory of God's praise.**

³Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!"

Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

⁴**All the earth bows down before you,
sings to you, sings out your name.”**

⁵Come now and see the works of God,
how awesome are God’s deeds toward all people.

⁶**God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot,
and there we rejoiced in God.**

⁷Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch over the nations;
let no rebels exalt themselves.

⁸**Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.**

⁹Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.

L: A reading from Galatians

Second Reading: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in “the family of faith.”

[¹My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ²Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor’s work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads.

⁶Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

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 Luke 10

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’”

¹⁶“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” ¹⁸He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* 756

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of the harvest, you send your church into the world to proclaim Christ’s new creation to all. Renew the church as it carries out your mission of peace and healing. We pray for missionaries who accompany your people. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your creation abounds with flowing waters and diverse creatures. Guide the work of climate scientists as they develop and advocate ways to restore earth’s natural balance. Motivate humankind to adopt lifestyles that protect and sustain the earth. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You guard the nations; let no leaders exalt themselves, but lift up the most vulnerable and work for the good of all. Send your Spirit to eradicate classism and inequity, violence and war, poverty and hunger. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You desire abundant life for all. As we celebrate Independence Day, instill in us gratitude, generosity, and persistence in working toward freedom for all people (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Mothering God, you care for all people in need. Nourish those who are hungry. Restore employment to those who have lost work. Heal those who are sick, and comfort all who are dying or grieving (*especially*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters of the Lutheran Church of Liberia as they begin new leadership with the election of a new bishop, Rev. Victor Padmore. May they continue to bring the light of Christ to Liberia. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We remember the saints who proclaimed your reign on earth and now rest in you (*especially Thomas the Apostle, whom we remember today*). Make us faithful in our witness to Christ's new creation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

C: Amen.

Responding in Love

Our Offerings *This is our response to God's grace.*

The assembly stands.

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 abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,

strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,

in the name of Jesus. **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: In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.

Come to the banquet.

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: Life-giving God,

through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,

both friend and stranger,

that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you, comfort you,

and show you the path of life
this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory 890*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

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, Dave Barner, Mary Bower, Mike Cervinsky, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Charlie Dunne, Joanne Fisher, William Greene, Fred Hoffer, Mick Miller, David Mitchell, Mary Lynn Overdorf, the Snyder family, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jake Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Terri Shank, Adam Shaffer, Richie Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany. Pray for Peace in Ukraine and an end to war.

Special thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers –Deb Heydrich and Ron Brundick; Head Usher –Dawn McCloskey; Teller – Shane Snyder; Bulletin Sponsor – Darlene Bilby;

Next week’s helper: Lector –Karen Aucker; Assisting Ministers— Bill Ely Jr, and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Dawn McCloskey; Teller – Shane Snyder Bulletin Sponsor – Darlene Bilby; Flowers - Mike and Ruth Aldridge.

The altar flowers are in honor of all troops serving and veterans’ service and in memory of those who gave the Ultimate Sacrifice for our freedom. Freedom does not come free. God Bless our military and God Bless America.

The Sanctuary Candle is given in memory Bill and Mary Ely by Jim and Lisa Ely.

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 Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) is at St Johns this year! Registration and making name tags will be Sunday, July 17 at 6:00 p.m. We need **CHILDREN!** Your children, your grandchildren, your nieces and nephews, the neighbor's child, the neighbor's grandchildren! Also needed are teen helpers. Sunday, July 17 – Thursday, July 21 at 6 PM. More information will be posted! So, watch this space!

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL at Garman Lutheran Church. 1779 Sulphur Run Road on Saturday, July 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be homemade baked good, crafts, Trash and Treasure, and a basket drawing raffle. For lunch, there will be sandwich platters and delicious desserts.

The annual **St. James Day celebration** on Sunday, July 24th will follow the worship service (usually around noon). St. James invites the members of the congregations of St. John, Garman and Grace to join them. St. James will provide paper goods, fried chicken, and we usually provide water, iced tea or lemonade as the beverages. We also ask that you bring a dish or dessert to share, and your own beverage if you don't want water, tea or lemonade. Please leave a message at the church office (570-398-1676) or tell Pastor Aucker if you are attending by July 17.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, July 3, 2022	<i>4th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	9:30 a.m.
Nave Worship Service		
7:00 p.m. Town Meeting Grounds Annual Vespers		
Wednesday, July 6, 2022		
10:00 a.m. Trinity Episcopal Worship		
10:30 a.m. Pack		
Thursday, July 7, 2022		
6:00 p.m. Town Meeting parade		
Friday, July 8, 2022		
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution		
Sunday, July 10, 2022	<i>5th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	
9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service		