

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

Sunday, July 9, 2023

6th Sunday after Pentecost



Introduction to the day

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

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: *Give Me Jesus 770*

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: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* 742

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, 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 Zechariah

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war-horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are good to all,**

and your compassion is over all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD,

and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

L: A reading from Romans

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Softly and Tenderly* 608

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire pastors, deacons, church musicians, and all ministers of your word (*especially name/s*) as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of the nations, you desire that all the peoples of the world live in peace. Guide government leaders at all levels—national, state/province, and local—to work for justice, mercy, and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need (*especially*), and make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Giving thanks to God for the 150 years of Seafarers International House who has offered light to seafarer’s and immigrants since 1873. Bless the chaplains as they offer spiritual care and assistance to the seafarer’s and immigrants in need. Hear us O Go,

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of all faithfulness, through the witness of the faithful departed you reveal love in action. Embolden us by their example to build up the beloved community in all the contexts we encounter. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

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

Holy Holy Holy

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, 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: Let Us Break Bread Together 471

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, Mary Ellen Dougherty, 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.

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, 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.

Thanks to this week’s helpers: Lector – a Dittmer; Assisting—Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor Betty Allen.

Next weeks’ helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers—Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller –Kaye Long; Bulletin Sponsor – Betty Allen; Flowers-- Shelby Rice.

The flowers are to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle in July is given in memory of my husband by Agnes 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

We welcome **donations 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.

This bulletin and more can be found on our church website: www.stjl.org

FIESTA VBS. July 16-20 at Trinity Methodist. 3 years old to 5th grade. St John needs someone to help with Sunday, July 16 registration, and we need to provide snacks and volunteers to help Tuesday, July18. Nightly volunteers. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. would be great! See Molly Hollick

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for the **LUKE STRONG 125 mile ride** on Saturday, September 2 by Parks-Dean Team. Donations are to assist with a handicap bathroom for Luke. Training for the Luke Strong 2023 Ride is officially underway! As always, your prayers, positive energy and support are GREATLY appreciated. Checks can be made out to Luke Antolick Benefit Fund.

Embarking on a spiritual journey can feel overwhelming. If you're feeling stuck and unsure about the next steps, we understand. We've created something special just for you – an interactive online course called "**Overflow: An Introduction to Growing in Faith.**"

In this course, you'll discover:

1. unique spiritual path and how to stay motivated

2. Ways to deepen your relationship with God
3. Practices to align your mind, spirit, and body with your faith
4. Cultivating a grateful spirit and finding security in God's love
5. Simple steps to set and achieve spiritual goals

Join our vibrant community of learners who, just like you, are looking to gain the confidence to navigate their spiritual journey. Don't let uncertainty hold you back from a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with God.

<https://faithlead.org/course-lp/overflow-an-introduction-to-growing-in-faith>

Calendar

Sunday, July 9, 2023	6 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Thursday, July 13, 2023	4:00 p.m. Box Packing
Friday, July 14, 2023	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Food Distribution
Sunday, July 16, 2023	5 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 6:00-7:30 p.m. VBS Registration

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 – 5th grade

Come join us!!!!

