

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
th229 South Broad Street
Jersey Shore, PA 17740

Sunday, May 21, 2023
7th Sunday of Easter
Rogation Sunday



INTRODUCTON

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* 392

Greeting

P: Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Rogation litany

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who feeds the birds and clothes the flowers, and who cares for us as a father for his children, we implore you to bless the fields and the flocks of our lands and graciously guard us against overcarefulness, and help us to live to the glorification of your name, the coming of your kingdom, and the doing of your will, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever One God, world without end. **Amen.**

Presentation of the Seed

This seed is symbolic of the various types of seed that have been or shall be sown and planted in this community. When sown it shall bring forth fruit, food, and fiber, so that little children may eat and become strong, so that men and women shall be nurtured and nourished, so that the wheels of industry may turn, so that life may be maintained among humans and animals. This seed is holy, for it contains life, and all seed shall be counted holy in the sight of God.

Prayer {people in unison}

O God, Lord of Springtime and Harvest, we ask you to bless the seed sown throughout the world for the nourishment of humankind. So water it with the gentle rain from heaven and warm it with the golden sunshine that it may bear fruit a hundred-fold, to the glory of your Holy name and the welfare of your people. Amen.

Presentation of the Soil

This soil is symbolic of the earth of this community into which the seed is planted. This soil, created by God, contains minerals, salts, and fertilizers necessary to nourish the seed, that it may bring forth sturdy plants producing food for both people and animals. This soil will be watered by the rains of God. It will be warmed by the sunshine of God. It will be a home for the seed, that it may develop and bring forth an abundant harvest. This soil is holy earth and it shall be cultivated and cared for as a gift of God.

Prayer {people in unison}

O gracious Father, when you open your hand you satisfy the desire of every living thing. Bless the land and waters, and give the world a plentiful harvest; let your Spirit go forth to renew the face of the earth. As you show us your love and kindness in the bounty of the land and sea, save us from selfish use of your gifts, so that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Acts

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰**Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

L: A reading from First Peter

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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 Day by Day 790

THE NICENE CREED p.104

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of harmony, as you drew your son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council (*persons can be named*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for all the young adults who are now submitting their applications to be volunteers through the ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission. May they be open to the Holy Spirit and use the gifts you have given to them to make this world a better place wherever they are called to serve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for (*Helena and*) all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM He's Got the Whole World in His Hand

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: Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.

We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.

In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One.

In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our 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

The Lord's Prayer p. 145

Invitation to Communion

P: Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.

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, Name Above All Names* (repeat twice)

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,

Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.

The assembly stands.

Prayer after Communion

A: Gracious God,

in you we live and move and have our being.

With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together.

Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Blessing

P: The God of all,

who raised † Jesus from the dead,

bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

Sending Song: *Crown Him with Many Crowns* 855

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

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 weeks’ helpers: Lector –Grace Welshans; Assisting Ministers—Gary Johnson, Karen Aucker; Head Usher –Cozette Stoltzfus; Teller – Shelby Rice; Bulletin Sponsor –Bill and Karyl Garner;

Next week’s helpers: Lector –Deb Heydrich; Assisting—Joyce Braucht and Carl Schaefer; Head Usher – Cozette Stoltzfus; Teller – Shelby Rice; Bulletin Sponsor—Bill and Karyl Garner; Flowers—Myrtle Long.

The flowers are in loving memory of loved ones by Nancy and Will Wolfe.

The Sanctuary Candle in May is in memory of Pap Yost by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan, and Adalynn.

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

This bulletin and more can be found on church site www.stjl.org

Calendar

Sunday, May 21, 2023 Rogation Sunday and 7th Sunday of Easter

8:30 a.m. end of Sunday School until Fall

9:30 a.m. last Children’s Church until Fall and Worship Service

Sunday, May 28, 2023

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

Confirmation of Ilana Greene, Dedication of red paraments,

Confirmation and Graduation TEA

1:00 p,m, Worship at Nippenose

I HAVE A HARD TIME *IMAGINING* THE ASCENSION.



YOU COULD JUST STICK WITH THE TEXT - "HE WAS TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN."



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YEAH... BUT *WHERE* IS THAT?



I THINK IT'S MORE OF A STATEMENT ABOUT AUTHORITY THAN GEOGRAPHY.



DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!



ACTS 1:6-14

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