

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, June 13, 2021**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Introduction to the day**

*The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.*

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRELUDE**

**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.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (ELW 807)**

**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 THE DAY: *We Walk by Faith* (ELW 635)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

**C: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

L: A reading from Ezekiel.

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel  
I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree;  
I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 92:1-4, 12-15 read responsively**

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love in the morning  
and your faithfulness at night;**

<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and on the lyre,  
and to the melody of the harp.

<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit in old age;  
they shall be green and succulent;

<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how upright the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17**

L: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to **Mark 4:26-34**  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

*Silence for meditation*

## Blessing of Graduates

P: We are delighted to recognize our graduates today. It is our privilege to affirm these members of our congregation who have completed this phase of their lives and move with great expectations to another.

Graduates, please come forward as your names are read:

<u>High School</u>	<u>College</u>	
Arabella Fiedler	Tucker Wool	Beatrice Ferguson
Quinn Green	Caleb Gallagher	Harris Brewer
Cora Stackhouse	Donovan Adams	
Riley Welshans	Xavier Adams	
Hannah Wool		

Before you were even formed, God knew you.  
While in your Mother's womb, God named you.  
At your birth, God's breath filled you with life.

Today we celebrate what you have become at this moment in time. And so we pray, God of our beginnings, we thank you for the gifts of these graduates; their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words. Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As they step forward into the world that awaits, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your divine presence. Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit. Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them from the pitfalls of darkness while they help to lead future generations into the warmth and promise of your light. We ask this blessing upon each of them,

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C: AMEN!**

### **Recognition of Trinity Endowment Scholarships**

*Deb Heydrich and Amy Brooks will come forward and announce the 2021/2022 Scholarship Recipients.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Earth and All Stars!* (ELW 731)**

## APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

A: Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musician(s) (*especially*). We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you (*especially*). We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Heavenly Father, as Camp Mount Luther resumes this summer, keep campers and staff safe as they seek to see you in your creation and look for ways to be drawn closer to you and the world you have made. Help them to enjoy renewing times with old friends and making new ones. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **Our Offerings**

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

*This ministry is funded by those who call St. John home and are excited about what God is doing through this ministry. If you are new to church, please don't feel any obligation to give. As much as we welcome your gifts for the Lord's work in this place, we care a whole lot more about you than money. We're just thrilled you're here.*

## **OFFERTORY**

### **Offertory Hymn: Create in Me (ELW 186)**

*Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me.*

*Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me.*

*Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**C: Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE BY PASTOR**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,  
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,  
in the harmonious world of your creation,  
the plants and animals, the seas and stars  
were whole and well in your praise.  
When sin had scarred the world,  
you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.  
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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.  
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

## COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

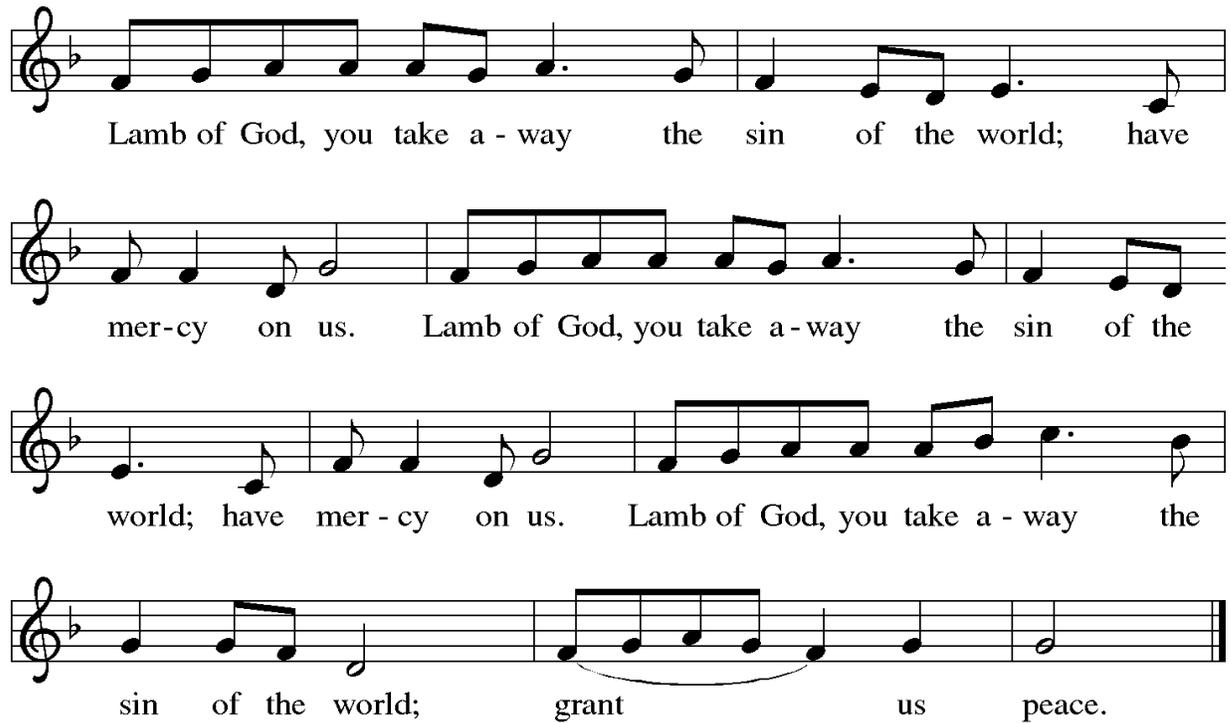
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Jesus Remember Me (ELW 616)*

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray.  
C: Amen.

## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.  
Amen.

**SENDING SONG** *Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word* (ELW 663)

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Honoring the 2021 Graduates**

Please join us downstairs for a tea following the service,  
as we celebrate the accomplishments of our 2021 Graduates.

We congratulate Cora Stackhouse, Hannah Wool, and Tucker Wool. They are recipients of the St. Paul Lutheran Scholarship Fund. Each will receive \$650 for continuing their education next year. The St Paul Lutheran Scholarship Fund was created with funds after the closing of St Paul Lutheran Church on Fourth Street in Williamsport.

Thank you to the Congregation and Trinity Scholarship committee for all the support as I completed my Bachelor's degree in History. I am currently in New Jersey participating in a research fellowship and am unable to attend the service. Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and the scholarships. Sincerely, Beatrice

Thank you to the Trinity Scholarship Committee. I am currently attending the summer session in Rhode Island and am unable to return to PA for the service. Due to Covid, first year students complete the first year of classes during the summer to reduce the number of students on campus. My classes are going well and I look forward to being home in late August. Thank you again for all the support. Maxwell

## *Announcements*

*We extend our sympathies to the family Richard Hurd who died on Monday, June 7, a funeral service will be held at Helt Funeral Home in Mill Hall on Monday, June 14 at 10:30 a.m.*

Remember in prayer: Rowen Aldridge, Luke Antolick, Connie Barker, Bob Braucht, Rev. Dr. Roger Fisher, Dawn Hauser, Linda and Ralph Lehman, David Mitchell, Ginny Moffitt, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Rev. Donald and Ruth Nice, Jean Ann Snyder, Shane Snyder, John Truax, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Maddison Myers, Tyler O'Neal, Adam Shaffer, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise and the homeless in our counties. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

Jane Shaffer has been moved to Roseview Nursing Home in Williamsport.

Special Thanks to this week's helpers: Lectors – Karen Aucker; Assisting Ministers - Bill Ely and Ken Dougherty; Acolyte – Ella Mitchell; Head Usher -Kaye Long; Teller-Betty Allen; Bulletin sponsor -Cynthia Breon; Bread Sponsor –Jean Ann Snyder.

Next week's helpers: Lector –Shane Snyder; Assisting Ministers -Gary Johnson and Karen Aucker; Acolyte –; Head Usher -Kaye long; Teller-Betty Allen; Bulletin Sponsor -Cynthia Breon; Bread Sponsor –Jean Ann Snyder.

The altar flowers are given in thanks and to the Glory of God for blessing us with our precious Rick Alan Snyder, missing and remembering him with love, on his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday given by Mom, Dad and Shane.

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

## **Giving Plus+**

Download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. Also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card.

## **Give+ Text:**

Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute. Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

## **Youth Ministry**

### **“Grab-a-Tab”**

The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn’t matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. “Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.



### **Fathers Day**

The youth of St. John would like to celebrate all the Men of St. John on Sunday, June 18 in honor of Father’s Day. The youth will be distributing a small gift to the men following the worship service.



### **Summer Camp**

Sign up for Summer Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Registration forms and Camp Brochures are available please see Molly. Our Christian Education Ministry encourages all our youth to attend camp and we will pay your registration fees. Church camp is a great place to grow in your faith.

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, June 13, 2021

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Honor Graduates*

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

Graduation Tea

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

7:00 p.m. A.A. and N. A. meetings

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

10:00 a.m. Prayer/Communion @ Trinity

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time @ Restless Oaks

Sunday, June 20, 2021

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Father's Day*

9:30 a.m. Nave Worship Service

7:00 p.m. NA meeting

