



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2020

Welcome to St. John

We are very pleased that you have joined us for worship today. If you are visiting for the first time, we have a welcome gift for you. We also appreciate any comments or suggestions that you may have. Thank you for coming today!

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly, and we offer guidance for those visiting in the following pages underneath the heading “Communion Distribution.”

Our bulletin is all you will need for worship this morning. We have inserted helpful information in *italics* including when, if able, to stand and sit. Congregation responses are in **bold**.

Children are welcome at St. John. We have worship activity bags located at each sanctuary entrance. All children are encouraged to come forward during Children’s Time. Our parents of children are welcome to use the Family Room at any time during worship—it is located in the Nursery School wing (upstairs). The room is open for families to use as needed for their children. We also have a baby changing station in the restroom by the main office. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.

Following our services, we will have beverages, cookies and conversation in our Great Room. We hope that you will join us and introduce yourself to others.

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohnsns.com

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 250 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2019.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Order for Worship

Welcome

Confession of Sins

[As part of our confession, I will speak words of confession and will invite your response: "Forgive us, renew us and lead us."]

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

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.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves –

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Amen.

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.

Amen.

Psalm of Praise ~ based on Psalm 136

I invite you to respond to my words with: "for God's steadfast love endures forever"

O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good,
for God's steadfast love endures forever.

who alone does great wonders,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

who by understanding made the heavens,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

who spread out the earth on the waters,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
the sun to rule over the day,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
It is God who remembered us in our low estate,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
and rescued us from our foes,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
who sent the Son to redeem us,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
whose Spirit gives the breath of life,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
who is worshipped, three-in-one, One-in-three,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;
O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for God's steadfast love endures forever;

Prayer of the Day

P: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Time

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A: Thus says the LORD:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.
And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,

and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,

**that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.**

May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Apostles' Creed

A: *Together, let us confess our faith:*

C: **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

["I will conclude each petition with the phrase, "Lord, in your mercy...", please respond with "hear our prayer".]

A: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Lord, you gather the church around the life and mission of your Son. May we gladly take on our roles as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. May we find ways to welcome all to his message, even those of other faith traditions. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant us grace to be your stewards - motivated to relieve waters choked by garbage, to renew soils stripped of nutrients, and to clean the air of pollutants so all creatures may flourish. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and age-old prejudices. Bless the peacemakers, bless the reconcilers, bless the compassionate. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for the outcasts, and for those who need your healing especially those on our Prayer List: Scott, Adina, Kathy, John, Eric, Tom, Jack, Jon, Rob, Sue, Lauren, Bill, Dave, Gladys, Dylan, Randy, Dorothy, Judy, Jim, Gerry, Hadley, Robert, Abby, Laura, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: You want the best for your children, watch over administrators and teachers, parent and students facing hard decisions during this time of pandemic. May they find support and encouragement from the greater community as plans are made to begin school in challenging, not-what-was-hoped-for conditions. We pray for all those whose learning and living will be more difficult this fall. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregation grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in these days of transition. Give us rest and renewal and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Your eternal promises are more than we could ever imagine. As you gather all the saints, join us also with them on the great day of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: **And also with you.**

Time of Thanksgiving

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During our time away, we will not be passing the offering plates. We are grateful for all who are able to continue their support of St. John. There are three ways to share tithes and offerings:

1. Simply giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Marcie Godby, our bookkeeper, to arrange for this (stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com).

2. You may go to St. John's website, <https://www.stjohnbluebell.org/>, and under "Quick Links" hit the "Online Giving and Donations" button.

3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

Take a moment and reflect on the gifts we have received – even in these difficult days.

Offertory Prayer

P: God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
C: **Amen.**

Holy Communion~ *Words of explanation*

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also 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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.**

Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Eating the meal, Hearing the Words

*The body of Christ, given for you. Take and eat.
The blood of Christ, shed for you, take and drink.*

Prayer after Communion

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.
Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Additional music links:

“O Healing River”

<https://youtu.be/lqP7TtSFCzI>

“In Christ There is No East”

<https://youtu.be/qbPqCYB972o>

“When Pain of the World Surrounds Us”

<https://youtu.be/C9GbRepA7D4>

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles' Creed

Soloists

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Audrey Pyle

Lisa Scalise

Mary Ellen Scheffey

Jenni and Scott Collins

