



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 22, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. John

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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Pastor Rachel Manke

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Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 252 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2021.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

This service is livestreamed on our Facebook page and posted to YouTube.

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Order for Worship

Prelude ~ "Thine O Savior, Thine is Love Unending"

Jonathan Oehler, Baritone

The Lord abide with you! Be every heart uplifted by the power of His Spirit!
On Him our guide and helper I rely, who never in need or sorrow shall forsake you!

Thine, O Savior, Thine is love unending, Thou art ever our guardian and our guide,
Thou sustainest all that fainting languish, bread of life to all the hungry givest.

Thine, O Savior, Thine is love unending, Thou art ever our guardian and our guide,
Thou in me and I in Thee, O Lord, then grace is my portion evermore!

Text: Robert Hall Collins

Music: Martin Blumner (from *The Fall of Jerusalem*)

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

C: **Amen.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against
you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left
undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors
as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us,
renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the
glory of your holy name.**
Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

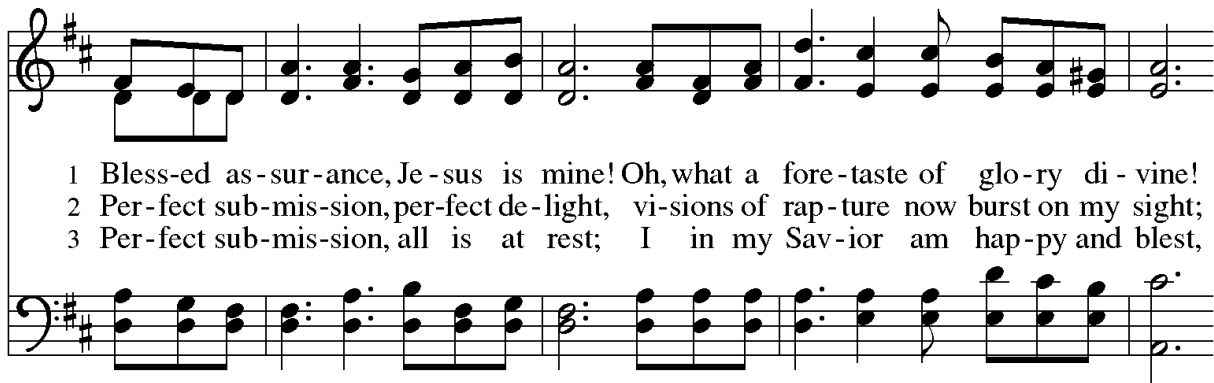
C: Amen.

Greeting

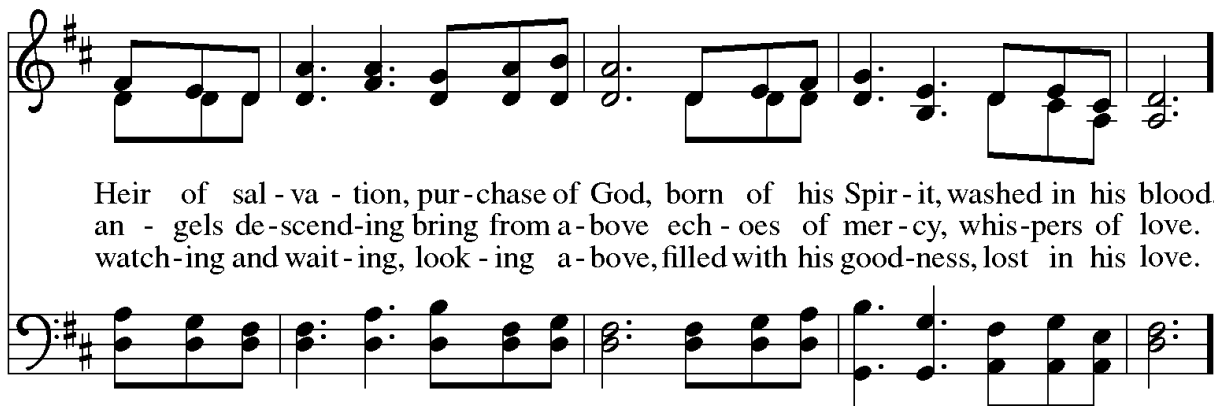
P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise ~ "Blessed Assurance"



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:

this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Prayer of the Day

P: Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

A: Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34

(Cantor, then ALL)



Psalm 34:15

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress
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The Lord turns his eyes to the just and rescues them in all their distress.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. **Refrain.**

When the just cry out the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **Refrain.**

Many are the trials of the just man, but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones; not one of his bones shall be broken. **Refrain.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

A: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 6:56-69

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

P: Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Hymn of the Day ~ “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you
re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

Welcome New Members~ Amy and Daniel Pfeiffer

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

A representative of the congregation or the presiding minister may introduce each new member or household.

P: Amy and Daniel Pfeiffer have come to our congregation from other corners of the church catholic.

APOSTLES' CREED

The presiding minister may introduce the Creed.

P: With the whole church, 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.**

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sister and brother in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism?
Among God's people in this place?
Those being welcomed respond.
I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

P: People of God,
do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ?
C: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

WELCOME

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

L: Let us welcome this sister and brother in Christ to this community of faith.
C: **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Bring safety and healing to Haiti. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Bring peace and safety to the people of Afghanistan. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. We pray for all who are sick especially Jim, Joshua, Caroline, Bruce, Jean, Karen, Lois, Barbara, Dick, George, Robert, Tim, Kate, Cheryl, Susan, John, Randy, Dorothy, Robert, and Donna. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We give you thanks for our new members Amy and Dan, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Jonathan Oehler, Baritone

Let us break bread together on our knees,
when I fall on my knees with my face to the risin' sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees,
when I fall on my knees with my face to the risin' sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,
when I fall on my knees with my face to the risin' sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Text: Traditional spiritual

Music: arr. Moses Hogan

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

During this time, 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).*
- 4. You may make use of the offering plate located on a table near the church building.*

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

Offertory Prayer

P: 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.**

The Meal

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: 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.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

The meal is shared.

Communion Hymn~ "Come Let Us Eat"



- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
- 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
- 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.
Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.
Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Benediction

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

C: **Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude~ "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

Timothy Shaw

Assisting with Worship

Pastor
Director of Music
Lector
Cantor

Pastor Rachel Manke
Lawrence Baker
Kim Even
Jonathan Oehler

Announcements

Welcome Amy and Daniel Pfeiffer to our St. John family!

St. John's Hires Youth & Family Director! -We are pleased to announce that we have hired our next Youth and Family Director. Ray Hopkins has many years of experience being a youth director in a Lutheran congregational setting. He has a certificate in Youth Ministry from our seminary in Gettysburg and has served on synodical and national Lutheran youth ministry committees. Ray and his life partner, Deena, live in Pennsburg PA with their 14-year-old Chocolate Lab, Bailey. Ray works in sales compensation for a company out of Radnor, PA. When not testing the limits of Excel formulas, he enjoys all sorts of movies, music, pop culture, being outdoors, and connecting with people. A fun note, when Ray was a child, he attended St. John's Nursery School! Ray will be coming to our Food Truck night this Wednesday; you can welcome him then!

Pastor Rachel's Installation & Reception is Sunday, August 29- Please plan to stay after the Installation service to celebrate Pastor Rachel with our St. John friends and family. We will have catered food, drinks, and hopefully a beautiful evening for the outdoor service and reception. The Installation service begins on August 29 at 4 p.m., with the reception to follow directly after. If you would like to help with the celebration, please contact Andrea Greyson

Our next Food truck night is this Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. featuring Hedgehog Grill and Kona Ice. Details are on our website.

VBS Day Great in God's Good Creation! Many thanks to the helpers, young and old, who helped us run a fulfilling day of learning and fun in God's Good Creation. We played games, watched sketches, sang songs, did crafts, and learned about bees from a community beekeeper. To quote Genesis, "It was good!"

Spirit Walkers- Next meet-up will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Wentz Run Park.

Weekly Outdoor Services will continue Sundays at 9:30 a.m. These services will continue to be live streamed on YouTube as well as shared via email on Sunday evenings.

