

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 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
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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

Prelude ~ "Blessing"

Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen, Mezzo-Soprano

May the grace of Christ our Savior, and the Father's boundless love,
with the Holy Spirit's favor, rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union with each other and the Lord,
and possess, in sweet communion, the joys which this world cannot afford. Amen.

Music: Richard Proulx

Text: John Newton (1725-1807)

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: **we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P: Beloved of God,
 by the radical abundance of divine mercy
 we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
 through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
 Our sins are forgiven.
 Let us live now in hope.
 For hope does not disappoint,
 because God's love has been poured into our hearts
 through the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ~ Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
 3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
 4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
 Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Greeting

P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all.
 C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Children's Time

Vince Bruno

Word

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

**The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.**

You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

**The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.**

The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

**He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry and saves them.**

The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

**My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.**

Second Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

A: Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: Now when Jesus heard about the beheading of John the Baptist, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Hymn of the Day ~ “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we 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

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: O God, you are able to take resources that appear to be meager, bless them so that there is enough. May your church trust that your blessings of grace and mercy will sustain us as we share the Good News of your Son. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: O God, your bountiful creation offers sustenance and life for all creatures. Protect this abundance for the well-being of all. Embolden and encourage us to repair the damage we have caused your creation. Replenish ground water supplies, provide needed rains in places of drought, and protect forests from wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: O God, you offer yourself to all the nations and peoples of the earth, inviting everyone to abundant life. May efforts to bring peace and justice in our world be sustained by the vision of all nations running to you, of all nations their joy in you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: O God, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering. Hold in your hand all who desire wholeness and healing. We pray especially for those on our Prayer List: 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: O God, continue to sustain this congregation, its members, its leaders, its Call Committee as our time of transition continues. Help us trust that as you prepare us to receive a new pastor, you are preparing the leader that will guide into its next phase of mission and ministry. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A: You gather your saints as one, united in the body of Jesus. Bring us with all your saints to the heavenly banquet. We remember with love and thanksgiving the saints we have known. 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.**

Anthem~ "Thine, O Savior, Thine Is Love Unending" Maja Lisa Fritzhusten, Mezzo-Soprano

The Lord abide with you! Be ev'ry heart uplifted by the power of His Spirit!
On Him, our Guide and Helper, I rely, who ne'er in need or sorrow
shall forsake me!

Thine, O Savior, thine is love unending,
Thou art my Guardian and my Guide,
Thou sustainest them that fainting languish,
bread of life to all the hungry givest.

Thine, O Savior, thine is love unending,
Thou art my Guardian and my Guide,
Thou in me and I in Thee, O Lord,
then grace is my portion evermore!

Music: M. Blumner (from *The Fall of Jerusalem*)
Text: Dr. Th. Baker

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.

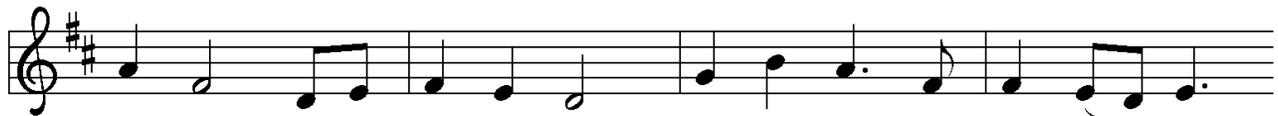
3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

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

Voluntary~ "Hungry Feast"

Carol Wahl

Offertory Hymn ~ "We Come to the Hungry Feast"



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

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.**

Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

Benediction

- P: God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
- C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Al Roberts

Additional music links:

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

<https://youtu.be/HJdSjR7VA6Q>

“The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee”

<https://youtu.be/oV1TuSvWilU>

“Break Thou the Bread of Life”

<https://youtu.be/djc3MUpRY6U>

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lectors

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles' Creed

Soloist

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Barry and Rita Stock

Samantha and Emma Posen

Samantha Posen

Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen

