



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 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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Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator
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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 ~ "O Lord, I Love the Habitation of Your House"

Duet - Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen and Jonathan Oehler

O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

Forever, O Lord, your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Music: Mark Bender

Text: Psalm 26:8, 119:89

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 ~ "For the Beauty of the Earth"



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Time

Word

Psalm 26:1-8

Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

**Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.**

For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

**I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;**

I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.

**I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O LORD,**

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

**O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

A: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

P: From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Hymn of the Day ~ “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”



- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
- 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
- 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
- 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

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 brief silence.

A: God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set the mind of your church on divine things. Grant us trust in you, that we pick up our crosses and give witness to your Son. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Make us mindful of our need to be good stewards of your creation. In these days we are mindful of those communities affected by natural disasters, windstorms in the Midwest, tropical storms in the Gulf, wildfires in the west. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: God of all nations, you call us to live peaceably with all. Guide us in this country during these days of earnest political campaigning. Give us ears to hear one another, especially as we share different viewpoints. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: God of salvation, you promise to deliver us. Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love. Accompany those who are uncertain and raise the spirits of those who are despairing. We pray especially for those on our Prayer List: Martin, Jenny, Scott, Lisa, 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: God of community, you call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Guide our congregation, may we continue to find ways to break through with connections and conversations in these days away from our building. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: God of all grace, you give us everlasting life. In love we recall your holy ones who now live in your undying light. We pray especially for the family of John Stone that includes the Stock family and their sister, Mary Pat McCormick, in their time of grieving. 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~ "Jesus Calls Us"

Duet - Maja Lisa Fritzhusten and Jonathan Oehler

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice sounding, saying "Christian, follow me!"
As of old th'apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying "Christian, love me more!"
In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"

Jesus calls us! By your mercies, Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all!
Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice sounding, saying "Christian, follow me!"

Music: K. Lee Scott

Text: C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

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 Hymn ~ “Day by Day”



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and



to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me



draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil



mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,



lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.

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 ~ "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ “Finale on *Hyfrydol*”

Jacob B. Weber

Additional music links:

“Come Follow, Follow Me”

<https://youtu.be/AYT85u4sbtQ>

“Pescador De Hombres” (You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore)

<https://youtu.be/2IAZS3jtfwc>

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

https://youtu.be/xFxmIT_NJyo

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles’ Creed

Soloists

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Connor Czincila

Jessica Brunner Knoble

Larry Erdman

Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen and Jonathan Oehler

