

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 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

610-277-1086

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Lawrence Baker, Director of Music
Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator
Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director
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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 ~ “Creating God, Your Fingers Trace”

Quartet

Creating God, your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might.

Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth’s myst’ries known or yet untold;
let water’s fragile blend with air enabling life, proclaim your care.

Redeeming God, your arms embrace all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove, make known on earth your healing love.

Indwelling God, your gospel claims one fam’ly with a billion names;
let ev’ry life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn

Music: Ralph Johnson

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

and turn us again to life in you

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
 and through his death and resurrection,
 Christ has made us his own.
 Hear the truth that God proclaims:
 Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
 Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
 to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn ~ "How Clear Is Our Vocation Lord"



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call

3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;

4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,

whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
 the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
 Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918
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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: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Time

Word

Psalm 80

(Cantor, then ALL)



You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

Refrain.

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field.

Refrain.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

Refrain.

And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Refrain.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

A: Paul writes: If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

P: Jesus said to the people: "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?'

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Hymn of the Day ~ "If You but Trust in God to Guide You"

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your

hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav-en's word; though un - de -

side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our

God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
 Text © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: Holy God, you call us to work for peace and justice in your vineyard. Refresh the church with your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Thank you for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by your servants who cared deeply for your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that our world leaders seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. We continue our prayers for our nation in this fragile and contentious time. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A: Sustain all who suffer with the promise of new life. Assured of your presence, heal our pain and suffering, and equip us to embrace all bodies aching for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We pray especially for those on our Prayer List: Susan, John, 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: We ask for your continued guidance as our congregation moves forward in this time of transition. May we be inspired by a vision of the ministries you are calling us into.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Thank you for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in your vineyard. We pray for the family of Vince Bruno, as they mourn the loss of his grandmother, Esther Bruno.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "A Vineyard Grows"

Quartet

Amid the world's bleak wilderness, a vineyard grows
with promise green, the planting of the Lord himself.

His love selected this terrain, his vine with love
he planted here to bear the choicest fruit for him.

We are his branches, chosen, dear, and though we feel
the dresser's knife, we are the objects of his care.

From him we draw the juice of life, for him supply
his winery with fruit from which true joys derive.

Vine, keep what I was meant to be:
your branch, with your rich life in me.

Text: Jaroslav Vajda

Music: English folk song, setting by K. Lee Scott

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.

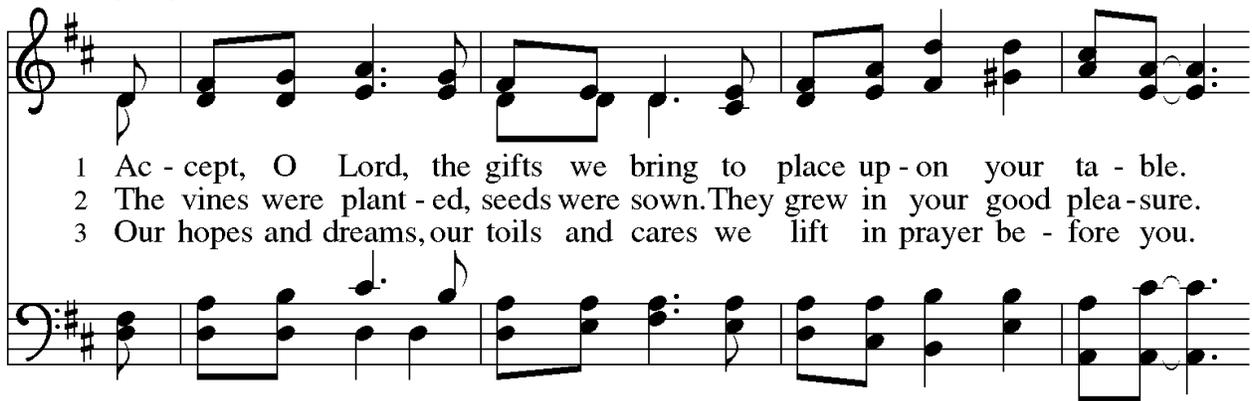
3. You may put your offering envelope (checks are preferred) in another stamped envelope and mail it to St. John: 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422 (Attn: Marcie).

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

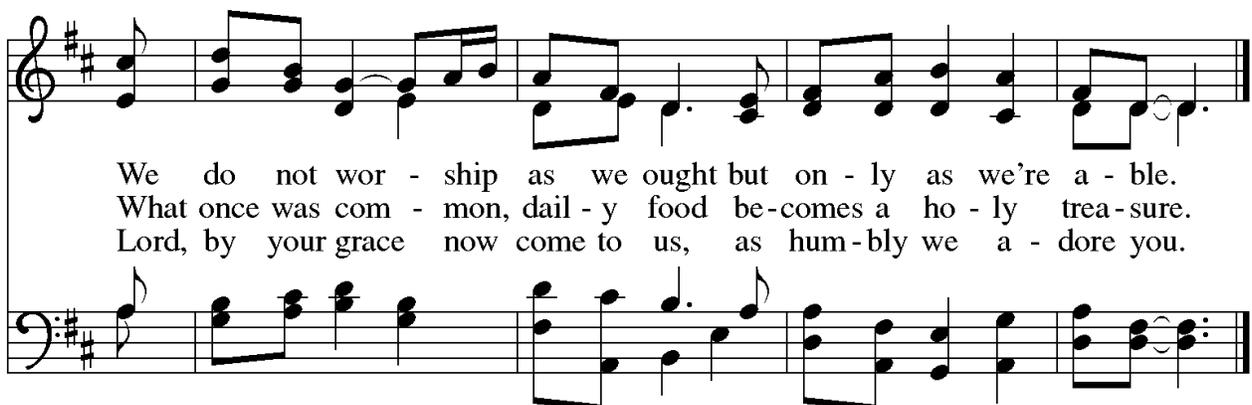
Voluntary~ “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

Emily Maxson Porter

Offertory Hymn ~ “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Offertory Prayer

- P: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- 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: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.
- C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ "The Church of Christ in Every Age"

1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698-1768
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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ “Rondel”

Charles Callahan

Additional music links:

“Handel’s Messiah-Since by Man Came Death”

https://youtu.be/6NttBSPm7hI?list=TLPQMzAwOTlwMjCi_5-qzThqRA

“God the Sculptor of the Mountains”

https://youtu.be/SajnxE0YMrI?list=TLPQMzAwOTlwMjCi_5-qzThqRA

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

https://youtu.be/zFPe_G-Lqcc

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor

Director of Music

Lector

Prayers of Intercession

Apostles’ Creed

Quartet

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers

Lawrence Baker

Dave Ochocki

Barbara Speece

Judy Winship

Deborah Swider, Maja Lisa Fritzhuspen,
Steven Rowe, and Jonathan Oehler

