



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

10:00 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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Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family

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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 ~ "Lord, Make Me to Know Thy Ways"

Quartet

Lord, make me to know thy ways. O Lord, teach me thy paths.
O make to know thy ways, O Lord, and lead me in thy truth, and teach me,
For Thou art the God of my salvation.

Text: Psalm 25:4-5

Music: William Byrd (1543-1623)

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,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God our comforter:

C: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Therefore, receive now, with glad hearts, the forgiveness of all your sins. †

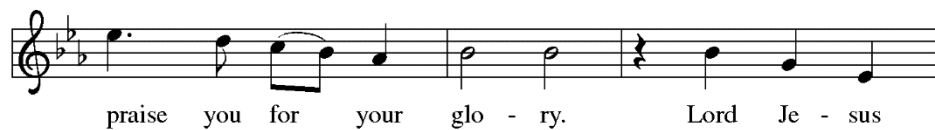
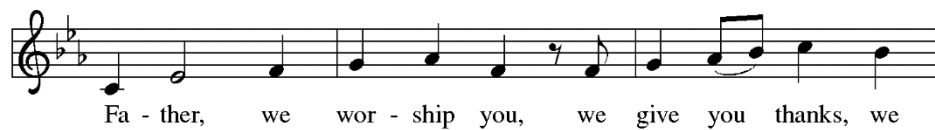
C: **Amen.**

Greeting

P: The grace 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 ~ "Glory to God"





For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



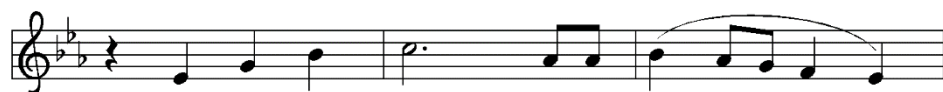
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

A: It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.
But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”
But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 54

(Cantor, then ALL)

Mark Anderson



Be - hold, God is my help-er, it is the LORD who sus-tains my life.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*
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Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.
Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.
For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God. Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life. **Refrain.**

Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.
I will offer you a free will sacrifice and praise your name,
O Lord, for it is good. For you have rescued me from ev'ry trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies. **Refrain.**

Second Reading: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

A: Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so, you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so, you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Sung Once by All.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two measures of music: the first measure has three quarter notes (G4, A4, B4) and the second measure has a half note (C5) followed by a quarter note (B4). Below the notes are the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,". The second staff also begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains two measures: the first measure has a half note (G4) followed by a quarter note (A4), and the second measure has a half note (B4) followed by a quarter note (C5). Below the notes are the lyrics "al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.".

Cantor: God has called us through the proclamation of the good news, that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **(Repeat Alleluia)**

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

P: Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

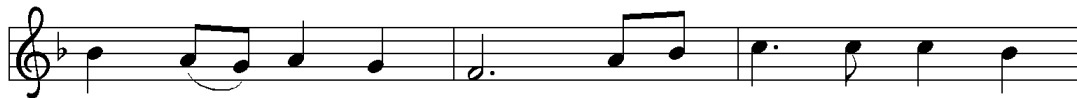
Hymn of the Day ~ "All Are Welcome"



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Apostles Creed

P: *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

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 community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home, schools, or country. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. We pray for all who are sick especially Amy, Melissa, Tom, Kimberly, Jim, Joshua, Carolyn, Jean, Lois, Dick, George, Robert, Tim, Kate, Cheryl, Susan, John, Randy, Dorothy, Robert, and Donna Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of all people, we continue to pray for relief, medicine, compassion, and an end to this pandemic. Inspire scientists, comfort healthcare workers. Bring peace, bring healing, bring aid. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints. 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.

If anyone would be first, they shall be the last, be the servant of all.
We are trav'lers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christlight for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too,
If anyone would be first, they shall be the last of all, be t5he servant of all.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, Till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony.
Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

If anyone would be first, they shall be the last of all.

Text: Mark 9:35/David Gillard

Music: David Schwoebel

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.*

For communion: *Prepackaged elements are available on tables nearby. Be sure to take one. The chalice shaped cups are wine and wafer. There are purple topped cups with red and also cups with white grape juice. There are some GF cups with red grape juice that are labeled on the tab. All are welcome.*

Offertory Prayer

- P: God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- 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-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. 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 together with the pastor leading with the words, "The body of Christ, given for you." then, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Communion Hymn~“Children of Heavenly Father”

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Benediction

P: People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, † one God,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude~“All Are Welcome”

Anne Krentz Organ

Assisting with Worship

Pastor
Director of Music
Lector
Quartet

Pastor Rachel Manke
Lawrence Baker
Dave Ochocki
Deborah Swider, Joy Schauer
Kurt Klinger-Wilensky, Jonathan Oehler

Announcements

Our next Food truck night will be September 29 from 4-8 p.m.

Spirit Walkers- Next meet-up will be Wednesday at a new time, **9:30 am**, at Wentz Run Park.

Weekly Outdoor Services will continue Sundays at 10:00 a.m. These services will continue to be live streamed on YouTube as well as shared via email on Sunday evenings.

Do you get our emails? We send out important announcements and notifications through a weekly email. If you are not on our list, you are missing important things! Contact the office for help signing up. We've been having trouble with our MailChimp program and emails are ending up in Spam folders or being blocked. If you need help figuring out how to change settings in your email provider let us know. Meanwhile we're trying to figure out if we can do anything to help fix it.

When it Rains - A reminder that when our Praise Lot services are rained out, we do not meet in person. However, you can stream the service online on our Facebook or on YouTube later in the day and we'll see you again when the sun is out!

Save the Date Reminders:

- **Sept. 26** - Sunday School resumes
- **Sept. 29** - Food Truck Fellowship continues with the return of Roll M' Up Truck!
- **Oct. 3** - Blessing of the Animals
- **Oct. 10** – *The Arts at St. John's* ~ Music for Trumpet and Piano
- **Oct. 23** - Evangelism will host a Beer Tasting event. Tickets available after worship.
- **Oct. 31** - Trunk-or-Treat, following worship

