



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 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

610-277-1086

Staff:

Pastor Rachel Manke

Lawrence Baker, Director of Music

Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family

Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator

Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director

Katie Myers, Webmaster

Barry Stock, Facilities Coordinator

Marcie Godby, Bookkeeper

Sue Klosterman, Church Office Assistant

pastorstjohnbluebell@gmail.com

lawrencebaker22@gmail.com

rayhopkins1802@gmail.com

annlb609@gmail.com

carrie@stjohnsns.com

stjohnbluebell@gmail.com

stock825@comcast.net

stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com

stjohn1802@gmail.com

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

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. †

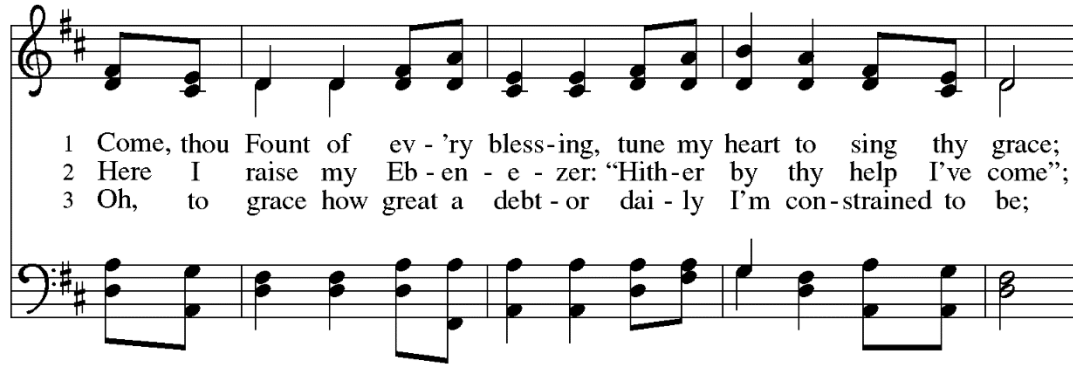
C: **Amen.**

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.**

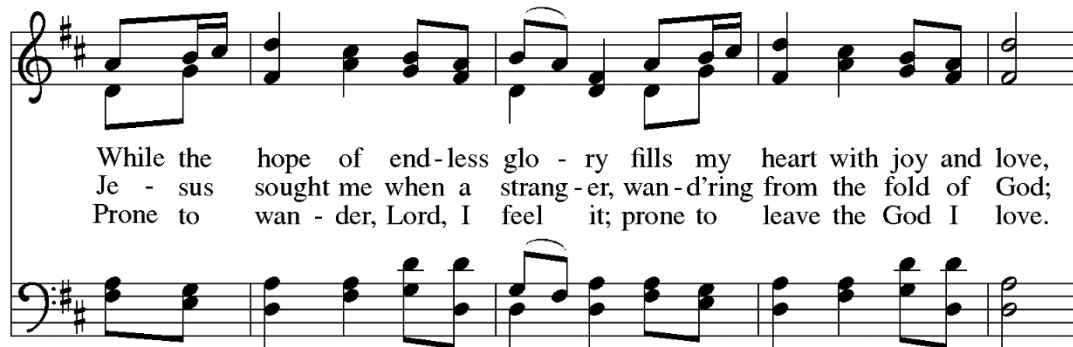
Hymn of Praise ~ "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"



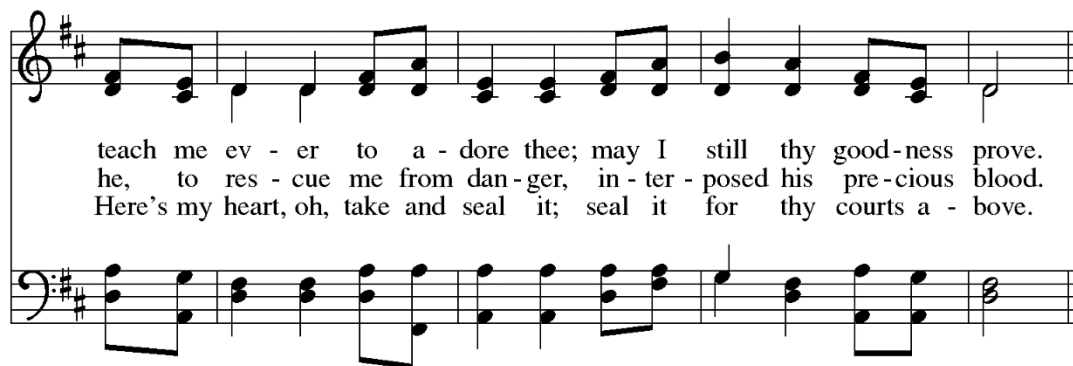
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

A: The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So, Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

So, the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting and have them take their place there with you."

So, Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19: 7-14

A: We will read the psalm responsively.

A: The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**C: The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

A: The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**C: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

A: By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**C: Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

A: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**C: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer. Amen.**

Second Reading: James 5:13-20

A: Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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, each with a double bar line. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,' are written below the notes. The second staff also begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains two measures of music. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5. The lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes.

Cantor: Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth. **(Repeat Alleluia)**

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

P: John said to Jesus “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck, and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.”

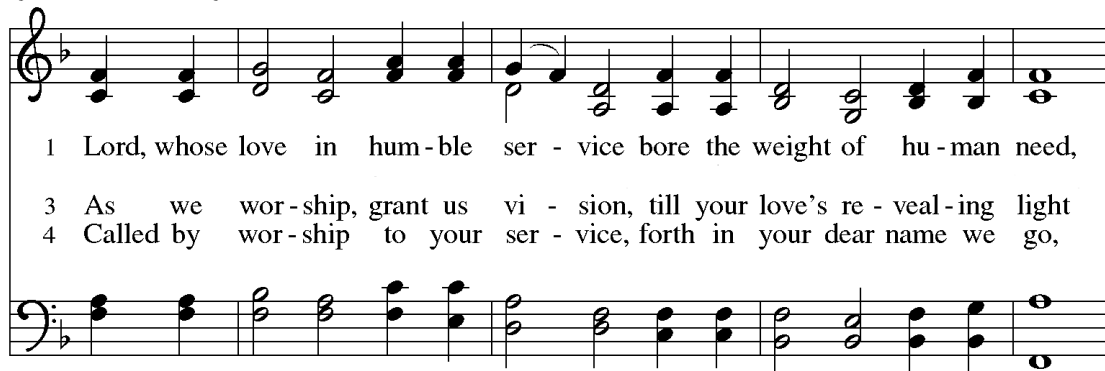
P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

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,
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,

who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
 in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.
 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

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: We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for natural wonders of your creation such as the Perkiomen Creek, Schuylkill River, the Atlantic Ocean. Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. 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: We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, technicians, set-up support and all those who assist. Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. 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~ "Thou Art God"

Jonathan Oehler, Baritone

Thou art the peace of all things calm, Thou art the place to hide from harm,
Thou art the light that shines in dark, Thou art the heart's eternal spark,
Thou art the door that's open wide, Thou art the guest who waits inside,
Thou art the stranger at the door, Thou art the calling of the poor.

Thou art peace, Thou art calm.
Thou art my love, Thou art my Lord and with me still,
Thou art my love, keep me from ill,
Thou art the life, the truth, the way.
Thou art my Savior this day, this very day.

Text: David Adam

Music: Lionel Bourne

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:

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 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~ "There is a Balm in Gilead"

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

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

Assisting with Worship

Pastor

Musician

Lector

Cantor

Pastor Rachel Manke

Ken Brown

Lisa Scalise

Jonathan Oehler

Announcements

Our next Food truck night will be September 29 from 4-7:30 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!

If anyone lost an earring in the Praise Lot, please contact Sue in the Church Office.

Lectors are still needed for October 17 and 26. If you can help, please contact Sue in the Church Office.

Save the Date Reminders:

- **Sept. 29** - Food Truck Fellowship continues with the return of Roll M' Up Truck!
- **Oct. 3** - Blessing of the Animals 4-5 p.m.
- **Oct. 10** – *The Arts at St. John's* ~ Music for Trumpet and Piano
- **Oct. 23** - Evangelism will host a Beer Tasting event. See Joan Linton for tickets after worship.
- **Oct. 31** - Trunk-or-Treat, following worship

