



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude~ "My Lord, What a Morning"

Sara Hagopian, Soloist

Welcome

Confession and Lament

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

With the Israelite slaves of old we cry out:
Always one group is deprived of freedoms.
The poor are forced to serve the oppressor.
O God, why are some laws so marked by unfairness?
The few have plenty to waste, although many are starving.

Hear us, O God:
Hear us, O God.

Form us by your justice:
Form us by your justice.

Give us your life:
Give us your life.

A time of silence is kept.

Hear these words, and receive their power:
God the Father promises a kingdom of justice and joy.
God the Son lived and died for the least of our sisters and brothers.
God the Spirit inspires us to build a city of peace.
God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit hears our prayers.
God forgives our sins.
Thanks be to God:
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of Praise – based on Psalm 136

I invite you to respond to my words with: “for God’s steadfast love endures forever”

O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good,
for God’s steadfast love endures forever.
who alone does great wonders,
for God’s steadfast love endures forever.
It is God who remembered us in our low estate,
for God’s steadfast love endures forever;
and rescued us from our foes,
for God’s steadfast love endures forever;
who sent the Son to redeem us,
for God’s steadfast love endures forever;
the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
for God’s steadfast love endures forever;
whose Spirit gives the breath of life,
for God’s steadfast love endures forever;
who is worshipped, three-in-one, One-in-three,
for God’s steadfast love endures forever;
O give thanks to the God of heaven,
for God’s steadfast love endures forever;

Prayer of the Day

P: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children’s Message

Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

A: So, you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

**Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.**

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.

**Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

**See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life.**

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

P: Jesus said to the disciples: "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

Apostles' Creed

A: *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 [“Each petition ends with the phrase, “Lord, in your mercy...”, please respond with “hear our prayer”.]

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community and in our Synod. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Look with favor upon all those places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation; teach us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. 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: Sustain us in our work, O God. May all find work that sustains and gives life. Be with those who cannot find work, or whose work causes hardship and distress. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to show our love for our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

A: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

Anthem~ "There is a Balm in Gilead"

Sara Hagopian, Soloist

Time of Thanksgiving

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 Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,
nourish us with this rich food and drink,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

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:

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

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.
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Eating the meal, Hearing the Words

*The body of Christ, given for you. Take and eat.
The blood of Christ, shed for you, take and drink.*

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.
Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Additional music links:

“Friedell Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

<https://youtu.be/GWisycmT5dM>

“Build New Bridges”

<https://youtu.be/VeDSfnMFt0o>

“Morningdance”

<https://youtu.be/DI85laN5htY>

Assisting with Worship

Bridge Pastor
Director of Music
Prayers of Intercession
Apostles’ Creed
Soloist

Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers
Lawrence Baker
Betsy Norton
Carol Weidler
Sara Hagopian

