

St. John & Bethesda Lutheran Churches

ELW Service of the Word

Sunday, September 12, 2021

WELCOME TO VISITORS AND GUESTS! We're so glad you're with us today. Songs listed with **ELW** (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) refer to the cranberry-colored book in the pew rack. If the listing has a page number, it is before the hymns. It is okay to wear a mask for your health or just for your comfort. You matter here. If you have questions, please ask anyone near you. We're happy to help! *= Rise as you are able.

Liturgy for this service (text, tune, and arrangements) used by permission of Augsburg Fortress Publishing License #11426-F. Hymns printed with permission from One License #A-708034

The congregation is invited to speak the portions of liturgy and scripture printed in **bold**.



Three weeks ago, we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

GATHERING

WELCOME *I will walk in the presence of the Lord. (Ps. 116:9)*

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water,
source of mercy, tender and mighty,
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water,
satisfying the thirst of all living things,
sustaining life in this community,
nourishing and delighting us.

We bless you for these gifts of water:

The Maple River, the Soldier River, the Boyer River.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water,
a sign of your saving power:
Noah and the animals survive the flood,
Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea,
and they drink from your gushing rock.
Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism
joined to your life-giving Word:
your well of mercy and cleansing flood,
your sea of deliverance from death into life,
your healing river washing sin away,
your living water springing up to eternal life.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit.
Fill us with your love.
Clothe us and all your people with grace.
Embolden us to do justice.
Bless us to love mercy.
Guide us to walk humbly with you,
whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ELW 834

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

ELW 157

Leader



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have



For the reign of God, and for



mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the



Lord. For your



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your



word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;

the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. **Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Faith comes by hearing,
And hearing by the Word of God.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
for the LORD has given ear to me

whenever I called.

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the LORD:

“O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”

Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

The LORD watches over the innocent;

I was brought low, and God saved me.

Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt well with you.

**For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and ⁹with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Faith comes by hearing.

And hearing by the Word of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(HYMNAL p. 142)



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

CREED

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

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters (*recent destructive events may be named here*). Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the healing of those connected with our congregations, especially those connected to Bethesda, **Jay** Lindsey, **Kathi** Aubry, **Roger** Hansen, **Jackie** Mesenbrink, **Todd** Pape, **Steve** Hein, **Lenyce** Lawrence, and those connected to St. John, Elayna Caruthers, **Adriaan** (Schaben) van boord, **Rachelle** Tucker, **Karen** Cadwell, **Audrey** Androy, **Matthew** Nickel, and **Deb** Gaul and those we name in our hearts or on our lips. Send us to them with encouragement, help when needed, and a spirit of compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

RESPONSE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

ELW 204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

OFFERING PRAYER

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. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

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.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Great is Thy Faithfulness

ELW 733

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

An Unexpected Kind of Messiah

Today we hear from three teachers. The prophet Isaiah calls himself a teacher, one whose words sustain weary people. James warns about foolish and hurtful use of our tongues, which should be used to “bless the Lord and Father,” but often are used to “curse those who are made in the likeness of God.” The final voice in the trio is Jesus, the teacher, who keeps the disciples quiet about any Messiah identity but speaks openly about his own suffering, death, and resurrection. Peter tries to counsel Jesus that no one willingly chooses to go along with that kind of plan. Nobody likes a loser. But Jesus responds that Peter has lost sight of what is most important in life. Jesus teaches the disciples that they will lose their life for the sake of the gospel.

How does the Holy Spirit move in, through, before, and after worship to sustain weary people with the word and sacraments? How can we make spaces for silence, art, and song so that people living through suffering and facing death can breathe, see, and hear God’s presence with them? In what ways do we make the same mistake as the disciples did, expecting a Messiah but then setting our visions on human rather than on divine things?

Jesus invites people of faith and those who doubt Jesus’ way to engage rather than avoid, conquer, or escape. What practices will help worshipers today to imagine the ways they are being called to “lose” their life in order to save it? From what does Jesus want to free people so that they will be able to pick up a different kind of burden and follow him? Then and now, Jesus invites followers on the way of the cross—a path of daily learning, dying, and new life.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John & Bethesda Lutheran Churches. We are glad you joined us for worship this morning! Please join us again for worship soon!

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELP WITH WORSHIP		
THIS MORNING 9/12		
	ST. JOHN	BETHESDA
GREETER	Kris Petersen	
ORGANIST	Damon Hopkins	Deb Lauritsen
USHER	John Hein Jay Petersen	Mark Johnson Jim Rains Russell Stanislav
LAY ASSISTANT		Chenoa & Aiyana
READER	Michelle Miller	Mike Vaughn
ACOLYTE		
NEXT WEEK 9/19		
	ST. JOHN	BETHESDA
GREETER	Mary Arndt	
ORGANIST	Damon Hopkins	Deb Lauritsen
USHER	Jay Petersen	Mark Johnson Jim Rains Russell Stanislav
LAY ASSISTANT	Kris Petersen	Joni Smith
READER		Angie Bothwell
ACOLYTE		Lauryn & Eli

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK		
SUNDAY 12		Sharon Hinrichsen (B)
MONDAY 13		
TUESDAY 14		
WEDNESDAY 15		
THURSDAY 16	Bonnie Schraeder (B)	
FRIDAY 17		Lisa Johnson (B)
SATURDAY 18		

B=Birthday A=Anniversary

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

SUNDAY, 12 PM ----- POTLUCK AT PLEASANT VIEW PARK
 1 PM ----- FUNDAY SUNDAY AT PLAESANT VIEW PARK
 WEDNESDAY, 5:30 PM ----- CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

SUNDAY, 11:45 -----

CONFIRMATION

OUR LONG-TERM PRAYERS

Each week we lift up each other in prayer. Sometimes the need for prayer continues for extended periods of time. As a church family, we care about those long-term needs. Please continue to keep these individuals and families in your prayers as they deal with long term illnesses and life changes. Also, please keep Pastor Chip and the office updated so the congregation knows when extra prayers are needed.

At Bethesda

† Lenyce Lawrence

† Sam and Diane Jacobs

† Russ Miller

† Pam Odland

At St. John

† Jim Berka

† Pat DeLong

† Audrey Gorham

† Joel Berka

† Jodi Klein

† Arlene Eisermann

† Jan Behm

† Cheryl Rath

† Ed DeLozier

† Jay Lindsey

Audrey Androy is home.

Lois Loy got home on Friday, address: 12378 S 73rd Ave
Papillion, NE 68046
Cell: 712-592-0070

Grant Gorham **New address:** 111 Garfield Plaza #512
Cincinnati, OH 45202

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

St. John, 5-6 PM on SEPTEMBER 15, 22, 29

Bethesda, 12-3 PM on SEPTEMBER 19

PASTOR CHIP'S CONTACT INFORMATION

MOBILE/TEXT 402-670-6055

EMAIL PastorBorgstadt@gmail.com



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*