

Holy Communion



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Bath, PA**

**Flowers Presented In memory of George & Mildred
M. & Emily Mast D. by David M.
and Family**

Prelude

***Confession and Forgiveness**

The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

*P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*C: **Amen.**

*P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*C: **Amen.**

*P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand for Silence for reflection and self-examination.

*P: Most merciful God,

*C: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*C: **Amen.**

***Hymn ELW #685** *“Take My Life, That I May Be”*

***The 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.**

***Prayer of the Day**

*P: O God our strength,

***C: Without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.

²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. ⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? ⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would →

become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

***Gospel Verse** (sung)

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***“Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia”***

***P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

***C:** (sung) **Glory to you, O Lord**

***Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶ He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from →

me; ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ ⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.” ¹⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. ²¹ “For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

***P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***C:** (sung) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon/Sermon

***Hymn ELW #579** “Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

***Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was
conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the
virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third
day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated
at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

***P:** Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

*V: God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.**

*V: God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from weather disasters. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.**

*V: Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.**

*V: Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.**

*V: On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive! Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

*V: Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

***C: hear our prayer.**

*P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

***C: Amen.**

***The Peace**

*P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

***C: And also with you.**

***Offering**

The Offering may be dropped off at the beginning or end of the worship service. We will thank God for our blessings, including the ability to give an offering for the work of God's kingdom.

Music at the Offering

Mark Roth, Guitar

***Offertory Prayer**

*P: God of good gifts,

***C: Receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**

***The Thanksgiving**

*P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus (sung)**

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

***The Words of Institution**

*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.

*P: 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.

***Lord's Prayer**

***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.

***Agnus Dei** (sung)

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**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.**

***Invitation to Communion**

***P:** The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

The bread and wine/grape juice will be distributed in the front of the church. If you would like to partake in your pew, please ask pastor to get you a pre-packaged communion set or ask an usher.

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you onto everlasting life. Amen.

***Post Communion Canticle** (sung)

***Thank the Lord and sing his praise;
tell everyone what he has done.***

***Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with
shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

***Prayer after Communion**

***P:** Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.**

***Benediction**

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

*C: **Amen.**

***Hymn ELW #879** *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

***Dismissal**

*P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

*C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Follow us on Facebook:

St. John's church page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Johns-Lutheran-Church-120814211266763/>

Pastor Walsh's page, for information on faith in the wider world:

<https://www.facebook.com/terrence.walsh.96>

Follow us on our website: www.stjohnsbathpa.org

Assisting in Worship Today

Altar Guild - June K., Bonnie V.

9:00 AM - Ushers: Robert & Robin M.

Lector: Rich S. Acolyte: Volunteer

Communion Assistant: Rich S., Volunteer

Stay up to day with worship schedule changes, meeting notices, and weather cancellations by
texting **STJOHNSBATH** to **84576**
or connect with us online at
stjohnsbath.flocknote.com

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

We are glad that you are here to worship with us. We are now in the season of the "Sundays after Pentecost." The color of the Pentecost season is green, which leads us to think about the Pentecost season as a time of growth in our Christian faith. Throughout the summer we will read large portions of St. Mark's Gospel, working our way from chapter 2 to chapter 9, and St. John's Gospel chapter 6.

On behalf of Jesus Christ, who was crucified and is now risen from the dead, we welcome you to worship. This morning we will hear the Good News as our lessons are read. We listen and sing to musical selections to worship God who is our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.

We will pray for all of God's people and all of our needs. You are welcome. All are welcome. All are welcome in this place.

Upcoming Commemorations

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872 - Monday, September 2, 2024 - Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

Today's Announcements - Sunday, September 1, 2024

<u>This Week at St. John's</u>	<u>Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost</u>	
9/1/2024 - Sun.	Adult Bible Study	8:00 AM
	Worship/Communion	9:00 AM
9/2/2024 - Mon.	Quilters	9:00 AM-Noon
9/6/2024 - Fri.	Food Bank Prep	9:00-11:00 AM
9/8/2024 - Sun.	Adult Bible Study	8:00 AM
	Worship	8:00 AM & 10:15 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Confirmation Meeting	9:00 AM
	Masked Worship (Library)	11:30 AM

Red Beets: We are again planning to can and sell red beets. Order forms are now located on the table inside the front doors. Get your orders in soon as they sell out quickly. If you are interested in helping please give Ned Hower a call 484-221-3946.

WELCA: To all women of St. John's and beyond. You are welcome to join the Women's group of St. John's Lutheran Church of Nazareth. They are planning a fall luncheon for all women. Stay tuned for more info, if anyone is interested please contact the church office at 610-837-1061 and please leave a message.

Basket Raffle: We are now collecting gift cards, and basket donations for the fall basket raffle. Any and all extra help for this event would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested and willing to help please give Jamie a call at 484-221-3455 or send an e-mail to: stjohnbath@gmail.com. The basket raffle is set for September 26-28th.



Online Giving Option: We share with you the new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation. You can give now at this website link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZAB8>.



Scan this code to
get the Vanco
App on your
mobile device

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission. Thank you again for all that you do.

Prayers Requested For: Jim A., Eileen A., Phyllis & Joe A., Amy B., Allen B., Marsha B., Josie B., Jan B., the B. Family, Barb B., Brother Bill, Cory B., Jason C., Bev F., Barry F., Laverne F., Kathy F., Lilly F., Arya G., Shawn H., Erin H., Troy H., Ned H., Robert H., Chuck H., Scott & Heather H., Seana I., Dennis K., Gerry K., Danny K., Lee L., Shirley L., Gwyn L., Jorge L., Ruth M., The M. Family, Danielle N., the family of Fran N., Samantha O., Arlene O., Brent R., The family of Ralph R., Earl & Steve S., Ethel S., Louise S., Barb S., Beth S., Rosalia S., Gloria S., Dolly T., James T., Stacey T., Ann U., Viola W., Lisa W., Brenda W., LaNor W., Galen W., Susan W., Richard Y., Yvonne Y., Pauline Y., The Z. Family, Helen Z., Robert Z., Francis Z.

If you would like to add or remove a person from the prayer list, contact the Church Office (610-837-1061).