

June 19, 2022
Second Sunday After Pentecost



St. John's Lutheran Church
Melrose Park, PA

Second Sunday After Pentecost

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Flower Dedications

In loving memory of George Brown by Steve Brown & Sue Kershner

To honor the memory of our loving Dad, James H. Seader on his birthday and Father's Day, by Jim Seader, Jr., and Joan Elizabeth Seader

John 13: 34-5 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

St. John's Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. At St. John's Lutheran Church, we welcome all because God welcomes all. We welcome all without regard to race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to economic circumstances, physical or mental ability, age or legal status. Whether you are a believer or a seeker, we welcome you. We at St. John's believe that all people have infinite worth and embrace our differences as children of God. As a community of faith, we are called to be facilitators of peace, harmony and reconciliation in our broken world. We welcome you to join us.

Please make sure your cell phones are silenced. Thank you!

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome to worship this morning in person and via Zoom! We're glad you have joined us today! You are invited to participate in the service as you feel called and comfortable.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

Save us from ourselves

and free us to love our neighbors.

Amen.

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN My Lord, What a Morning 438**

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

*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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 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.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:1-9**

A reading from Isaiah

I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.
I said, "Here I am, here I am,"
to a nation that did not call on my name.
I held out my hands all day long
to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;
a people who provoke me
to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens
and offering incense on bricks;
who sit inside tombs,
and spend the night in secret places;
who eat swine's flesh,
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;
who say, "Keep to yourself,
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."
These are a smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that burns all day long.

See, it is written before me:

I will not keep silent, but I will repay;
I will indeed repay into their laps
their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,
says the LORD;
because they offered incense on the mountains
and reviled me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
full payment for their actions.

Thus says the LORD:

As the wine is found in the cluster,
and they say, "Do not destroy it,
for there is a blessing in it,"
so I will do for my servants' sake,
and not destroy them all.
I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it,
and my servants shall settle there.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***PSALM: Psalm 11:19-28**

But you, O LORD, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.

**Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.**

Save me from the lion's mouth!

From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

I will declare your name to my people;

in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;**

but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live
forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the LORD,

who rules over the nations.

***SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-29**

A reading from Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith.⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian,⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one

in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39**

The holy gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”—for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for

many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

***SERMON**

Rev. Felicia Swartz

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.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' 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.**

Mission Statement

*Following the way of Jesus, St. John's gathers as a caring community to
serve our neighbors and share God's love.*

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you hear the cries of those who seek you. Equip your church with evangelists who reveal the continuous call of your outstretched hands and your promises of a home in you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You hear the cries of the earth. Restore places where land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Guide us to develop and implement sources of energy and food production that do not destroy the earth. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You hear the cries of those who are marginalized or cast out. On this Juneteenth observance, guide us continually toward the end of oppression in all its forms, especially white supremacy. Bring true freedom and human flourishing to all your beloved children. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You hear the cries of those who suffer. Come to the aid of all who are homeless, naked, hungry, and sick. Bring peace to any experiencing mental illness, that they can clearly recognize your loving presence. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You hear the cries of those who celebrate and those who grieve on this Father's Day. Nurture mutual love and tender care in all relationships. Comfort those for whom this day brings sadness or longing. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful departed whose lives proclaimed all you had done for them. At the last, unite us with them as we make our home in you. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.

Amen

***OFFERTORY**

Let Us Break Bread Together

471



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

Strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,

in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

***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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,

you pour out the fire of your Spirit,

uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the

resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

Our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scared the world,
You sent your Son to heal our ills

And to form us again into one.
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.
Remembering, therefore,
His acts of healing,
His body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us now 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. 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

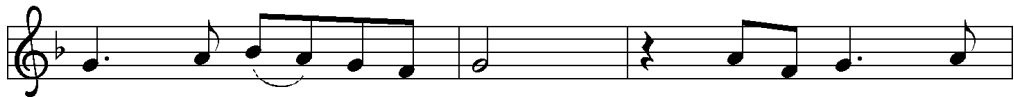
*LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ dwells with us here.
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.
Thanks be to God.

***COMMUNION**

The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.
Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of peace,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN In Christ There is No East or West**

650



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Pastor Felicia Swartz - Contact Information-

Email: rev.stjohnsmelrose@gmail.com

Phone: 570-428-3522

Office hours (please note that hours are subject to change as emergencies arise):

Wednesday: 10:00 am ~ 2:00 pm

Friday: 10:00 am ~ 2:00 pm

We pray for Patricia, (Marcia Boraas), Sarah Likly, Anne Betz, Jamie McCarthy, Debbie McCusker, Kate Saunders (Steve Brown & Sue Kershner), Dottie Malloy (friend of Norajean Flanagan), Jaclyn Kirchhoff , Joan Englebert, Wendy Beatty-Burg, Bridget Diamond McHugh, John & Joann Ducshl, Susan Hanes Stillman (friends of Rosemary & Bruce Hanes), Christopher Rocklyn, Robert Rocklyn, Ron and Ryan Turner, Brittany Nentwig, Bette Wenrich (Louis Ley), Fran Pinnel, Louise Goodchild, Jack Saarela, friends and family of AJ, James Rasmussen, Susan Collins and all who are in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit.

We pray for our homebound members Louise Goodchild, Fran & Roger Pinnel, Evelyn Reutemann, and Marionne Adshead.

Giving Thanks for caregivers treating all affected by Covid19 and its variants.

Finally, we pray for those suffering from Covid-19 and its variants, those experiencing hunger, homelessness, those struggling with addiction, and those who are serving the church as missionaries.

Fran Pinnel is in the Cheltenham Nursing Home, 600 W. Cheltenham Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19126 for visits/cards.



Social Ministry Summer Drive: During June, the Social Ministry Committee will be collecting donations to help support cats and dogs at the Montgomery County SPCA. **We would appreciate donations of cat food, dog food, cat and dog treats, non-clumping kitty litter, puppy pads, clean towels and blankets.**

Please call the church office at 215-635-3465 to arrange a drop off of the items or bring to worship on any given Sunday.

Thanking you in advance for your generosity

Announcements for Our Life Together

Pride Month Reconciling in Christ Special Donation: As a Reconciling in Christ congregation we are committed to supporting our LGBTQIA+ siblings in the church and the world. Since June is designated as Pride Month we are taking up a special offering that will be sent to Reconciling Works, the organization that works with churches desiring to become a RIC congregation. Part of our obligations as a member of this group is to donate each year. So, if you would like to make a special donation either mark it on your envelope or your check that it is designated for Reconciling Works.

Craft Night: Don't forget Craft Night is Thursday, June 23, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

Wednesday Night Prayer: We will be continuing our new practice of live prayer time together on Wednesday's at 7pm on the church's Instagram page.

Weekly Instagram Live Sermon- Every Wednesday following our Nightly Prayer everyone is welcome to join us on our St. John's Instagram page for a live retelling of the week's sermon. If you missed worship on Sunday and would like to hear the message for the week, this is a great opportunity. Or if you want to share the message with others you know who cannot be with us on Sundays, feel free.

Book Club: Book Club is now reading *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Date for our discussion meeting will be determined.

Summer Outdoor Worship: Join us this summer for multiple services in the great outdoors. We will gather at our normal time on every third Sunday from July to September-- July 17, August 21, and September 18 outside in our parking lot.

Breakfast Bags: The last Sunday of every month this summer we will be taking time following worship to pack breakfast bags for The Breathing Room. June's date will be Sunday, June 26.

Summer Church Picnic: Join us on Sunday, August 21 after our outdoor worship for a church picnic. This will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. Also, it would be helpful to bring along your own chair for the meal.

Directory: St. John's spring 2022 Directory is available in the back of the Sanctuary. If you would like to receive the Directory by mail, please let Linda know.

Summer Coffee Hour Trivia Hour- Have you ever wondered what your fellow parishioner's favorite color is? Maybe you want to know whether everyone likes pie better than cake? If you have ever wanted to know more about your neighbor in worship join us for a time of fellowship and fun as we gather during the summer for some trivia together. Every 2nd Sunday of the month following worship we will gather for a friendly game of trivia where we will answer some fun questions to help us get to know one another even better.

Worship & Coffee Hour Update: Based upon information from the CDC and Montgomery County, and with advice from the Synod, St. John's is strongly urging all who attend in-person worship to wear a facial covering whether you are vaccinated or not. We will also resume normal coffee hour following worship.

Offering Envelopes: *Please continue to send in your weekly offering envelopes.* You can mail checks directly to the office or place envelopes with cash/check through the mail slot on the handicapped door. **Linda will acknowledge receipt of your donation.** Thank you for your continued support of St. John's.

Social Ministry – Food Cupboard needs food: URGENT! Thanks to all of you who have dropped off food donations at St. John's. Deliveries are ongoing, primarily to the Interfaith Food Cupboard at Salem Baptist in Roslyn. Hours are Wednesday-Thursday and Saturday 10-1. If you can get food to St. John's, we can promptly get it to those who are in need. Please contact Linda to arrange a food drop off at St. John's, or you may always donate directly to one of our designated food cupboard partners. Please, no glass can be accepted. Thank you for continuing this important ministry!

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: Now that we have a full-time pastor we are looking for donations to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This fund is an important part of the church's outreach to those in need. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund can be used to help people in need with utility bills, grocery assistance, rent, gas funds, etc. Please consider donating to this important outreach effort.

Our next Communion Sunday—Sunday, July 3, 2022. On Communion Sundays, individual 'self-serve' wine/wafer or grape juice/wafer combinations will be available in the back of the sanctuary at the start of worship for those attending in person. **They can also be picked up in advance at the church office by those who wish to participate, but will be attending via Zoom.** If you plan to share in Communion from home, please call Linda in the church office to arrange a time for pick-up during the week prior to each Communion Sunday.



St. John's Lutheran Church

1224 Melrose Avenue, Melrose Park, PA 19027

Office open Monday through Friday, 10:00 – 2:00

(215) 635-3465, officesaintjohns@comcast.net

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Cell Phone: 570-428-3522

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