**St. John’s & St. Peter’s**

## Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## ~ September 8, 2024 ~

**Gathering**

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\* Confession & Forgiveness** WOV pg. 10

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

***C: Amen.***

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

***C: Amen.***

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

P: Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

***C: Amen.***

***\** Entrance Hymn *“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”*** WOV #783

Vs. 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its

Righteousness, and all these things shall be

Added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

Vs. 2 Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and

You shall find; knock and the door shall be

Opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia.

Vs. 3 We do not live by bread alone, but by

Ev’ry word that proceeds from the

Mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia.

**Greeting** *WOV pg. 28*

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.***

**\* Kyrie***WOV pg. 28*

P: Kyrie eleison:

***C:Lord, have mercy.***

P: Christe eleison:

***C:Christ, have mercy.***

P: Kyrie eleison:

***C:Lord, have mercy.***

**\* Hymn of Praise** *WOV pg.29*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone

are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth,

And peace to God’s people on earth.

**\* Prayer of the Day**

P: Gracious God,

**C: throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and**

**death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us**

**a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world,**

**through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

**Word**

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God’s vengeance on Edom, Israel’s age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles’ return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

**4**Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” **5**Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; **6**then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; **7**the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water.

**Psalm 146**

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**2I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

3Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

**4When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish. I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

5Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord of their God;

**6who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

7who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

**8The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

9The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**10The Lord shall reign forever, you God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

**SECOND READING**: **James 2:1-17**

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God’s will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? **2**For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, **3**and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” **4**have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5**Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? **6**But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? **7**Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

**8**You do will if really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **9**But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10**For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. **11**For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12**So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. **13**For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

**14**What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? **15**If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food **16**and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? **17**So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**\* Gospel Acclamation** *WOV pg. 31*

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

**Gospel**: **Mark 7:24-37**

*In Mark’s gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus’ ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

**24**Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, **25**but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. **26**Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. **27**He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” **28**But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” **29**Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” **30**And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

**31**Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. **32**They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. **33**He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. **34**Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” **35**And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. **36**Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. **37**They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” vs. 1-4**

ELW #620

Vs. 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in

a believer's ear! It soothes our sorrows,

heals our wounds, and drives away all fear.

Vs. 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole and

calms the heart's unrest; 'tis manna to the

hungry soul and to the weary, rest.

Vs. 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my

shield and hiding place; my never-failing

treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.

Vs. 4 By thee my prayers acceptance gain al-

though with sin defiled. The devil charges

me in vain, and I am owned a child.

\* **Apostles’ Creed** *WOV pg. 33* 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 into hell.

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.

**\* The Prayers**

***Lord, listen to your children praying,*** *WOV #775*

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

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.

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our communities to protect rivers, lakes and streams and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their home there. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort all who live with chronic illness today we lift up

Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

**Meal**

**Peace**

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

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

**\* Offering *“Let the vineyards”*** *WOV pg. 35*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers

We offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord,

and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**\* Offering Prayer**

P: Merciful God,

***C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given to us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**\* Great Thanksgiving** *WOV pg. 36*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.***

**\* Words of Institution** *WOV pg. 36*

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

***C: Amen.***

**\* Lord’s Prayer** *WOV pg. 39*

***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.***

**Communion Distribution**

**\*Communion Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep

you in his grace. ***C: Amen.***

**\* Canticle** *WOV Pg. 40*

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell every-

one what God has done. Let all who seek the

Lord rejoice and bear Christ’s holy name.

Send us with your promises, O God,

and lead us forth in joy with shouts

Of thanksgiving. Alleluia.

**\* Prayer** WOV Pg. 41

P:Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

***C: Amen.***

**Sending**

**\* Blessing** WOV Pg. 41

P: Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\* Sending Hymn “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”** ELW #886

Vs. 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
 the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!

Vs. 2 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
 to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Vs. 3 The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,  
 sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

Vs. 4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
 the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Vs. 5 Look unto him, your Savior own, O fallen human race!  
 Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!

Vs. 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n  
 by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

**\* Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***