



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA

Waseca, MN



Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021

17th Sunday of Pentecost

Now the Feast and Celebration with Communion

GATHERING

Introduction

The Book of Judges is a collection of stories about heroes from the early days of Israel's history. These tales were told in families and clans, in the villages and in the towns, and finally written down. The stories in the Book of Judges follow a pattern: 1) The people forget God; 2) God gives them up to their enemies; 3) The people confess their sin and pray to God; 4) God sends a 'judge' to deliver them from their enemy and to lead them to a life of following God's commands. The purpose of the Book of Judges was to address the question of people of faith who have endured great difficulties and ask, "Has God forsaken and forgotten us?" God hears their prayers. God has not abandoned them. Our gospel lesson tells us of Jesus, the one sent by God to deliver us from our sins. The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. At our communion table Jesus spreads a feast before us and promises that his goodness and mercy will follow us always, transforming our lives.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

(Please Stand)

Gathering Hymn: (cranberry) #764 Have no Fear, Little Flock

1. *Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock, for
the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!*
2. *Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock, for
the Father will keep you in his love forever; have good cheer, little flock!*
3. *Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above, for
he stoops down to help you, uplift and restore you; praise the Lord high above!*
4. *Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God, for
he stays close beside you, in all things works with you; thankful hearts raise to God!*

Prayer of the Day

P *The Lord be with you!*

C **And also with you!**

P *Let us pray together:*

P *Lord Jesus, good shepherd of the sheep,*

C **you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Hymn (cranberry)

#167 Now the Feast and Celebration

~**Refrain**~

Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy to the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forever more.

1. *Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God.*

~**Refrain**~

2. *Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever.*

~**Refrain**~

3. *For God has come too dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new.*

~**Refrain**~

(Please be seated)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Judges 4: 1-9

Deborah was a prophet and judge who, with her general, Barak, led a victorious holy war against a stronger Canaanite force from the north.

¹The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. ²So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

⁴At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’” ⁸Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” ⁹And she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh.

R The Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Psalm 23 (congregation: bold print)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

**³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) pg 216

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: John 10:11-18

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

Children's Message

Message

Strong Together

Pastor John Omans

Message Song (cranberry) #715 Christ be our Light (verses 1, 2, 5)

1. *Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.*

~Refrain~

**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.**

2. *Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.*

~Refrain~

5. *Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.*

~Refrain~

(Please Stand)

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**The Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
Of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**The only Son of God,
Eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,**

True God from true God,

**Begotten, not made,
Of one Being with the Father;
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

He came down from heaven,

**Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
And became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

In accordance with the scriptures;

**He ascended into heaven
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
Who was spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.*

C Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Holy One,*

C **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**

We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.

**Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P *Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.*

Through + Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C Amen.

The Prayers

P *Lord, in your mercy*

C Hear our prayer

Peace

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

C And also with you.

P *We share Christ's peace with each other.*

(please be seated)

Offering Invitation (*spoken by Pastor*)

(Offering may be placed in offering plates near exits)

THANKSGIVING

Stewardship Minute

Thank you to all who help the past Sunday, laying the foundation for a joyful Sunday of worship, fellowship, and serving our Lord! Children were baptized, our youth and families received a prayer of blessing for a new school year, pancakes were lovingly made and shared, and 111 school kits were assembled for Lutheran World Relief. Thanks be to God!

Offering Prayer

P 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.

C **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Sing

Presider: The Lord be with you **Congregation : And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts. **Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: *It is our duty and delight.... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Sanctus (cranberry) page 191 **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Sing

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

P: *You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God; everything is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for your promise and presence which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation. Above all, we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation and peace.*

On the night of his betrayal 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.

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 his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and ascension we pray for his coming again, even as we cry: Amen! Come Lord, Jesus!

Sing

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation. Amen! Come, Holy Spirit!

Sing

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit

P This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend

Sing

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit,
All glory and honor is yours, O God, now and forever. Amen.**

P Make us bold, merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray.

The 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.

Communion

(All baptized Christians are invited to come to the Lord's Table. All Children who haven't had instruction are invited to come for a blessing. They're asked to fold their hands. Children who are receiving communion please extend your hands. Grape juice is available. Please say "grape juice" to the server).

Gluten Free wafers are available upon request.

COVID-19 instructions: Please come down the center aisle, pulpit side first, then lectern side. Please maintain social distancing. Receive the bread and wine and proceed to the side aisle, where you may remove your mask and eat/drink the bread and wine. For those with mobility issues, the bread and wine will be available at a side station near the side aisle.

Invitation to Communion

P *The gifts of God for the people of God*

The table is ready. Please come.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.
fear: peace: love.

Congregation:
mer-cy on us.

Final Stanza
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymns During Communion

Hymns (cranberry)

#789 Savior, like a Shepherd Led Us

1. *Savior like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepared.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are your.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.*
2. *We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.*
3. *You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pw'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesu, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early to us turn to you.*

Hymns (cranberry)

#542 O Living Bread from Heaven

1. *O living Bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest! The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest. O wondrous food of blessing! O cup that heals our woes! My heart, this gift possessing, in thankful song o'er flows!*
2. *My Savior, you have led mee within your holiest place, and here your self have fed me with treasures of your grace; for you have freely given what earth could never buy, the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die.*
3. *You gave me all I wanted; this food can death destroy. And you have freely granted the cup of endless joy. My Lord, I do not merit the favor you have shown, and all my soul and spirit bow down before your throne.*
4. *Oh, grant me then, well strengthened with heav'nly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, to serve you, free from fear; and bring me home to praise you where none can peace destroy, where I will ever raise you glad songs in endless joy.*

5.

Hymn (cranberry)

#781 Children of the Heavenly Father

1. *Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather; nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.*
2. *God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish. From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.*
3. *Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever; unto them his grace he sheweth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.*
4. *Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh: his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.*

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

P Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Blessing

P *People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. May God, Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.*

C **Amen.**

(Please stand)

Sending Hymn (cranberry) #547 **Sent Forth by God's Blessing**

1. *Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The super is ended. Oh, now be extended the fruits of this service in all who believe. The seed of Christ's teaching receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us to work for your kingdom and answer your call.*
2. *With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring. Embracing God's children, the whole human race. With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.*

Sending

P *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!*

C **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

PLEASE WAIT FOR USHERS TO EXIT YOU OUT OF PEWS.

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Jan Macklay

Guitarist: Michael Harvey

Ushers: Valerie Possehl, Kimberly DeMarce

Communion Prep: Jodi & Teri Wilker

Communion Bread Makers: Vickie Hill & Cindy Coy

Acolyte: Kaden Garza

Reader: Kim DeMarce

Council Person: Kyle Gallagher

Videographer: Gyles Randall

Facebook Live: Curtis Yess

Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents

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