

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
229 South Broad Street  
Jersey Shore, PA 17740

Sunday, May 26, 2024  
The Holy Trinity  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



**INTRODUCTON** *When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.*

#### **PRELUDE**

**GATHERING SONG** *Come, Thou Almighty King 408*

#### **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.**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, ✠ the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty* 413**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**  
*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

L: A reading from Isaiah.

**First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8**

*This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.*

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory."

<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L Let us read the Psalm responsively by verse

**Psalm:** Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength<sup>1</sup> to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

### **L: A reading from Romans**

#### **Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17**

*In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.*

<sup>12</sup>Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p.142**

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### **Gospel: John 3:1-17**

*Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said

to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

## SERMON

*The assembly will stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Come Join the Dance of Trinity 412*

**APOSTLES CREED** (*p. 105 at the beginning of the hymnal*)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

Abba God, you have brought us into your family, claiming us as beloved children. Bless your family of faith with gifts of cooperation and graciousness. Increase our hospitality toward all expressions of faith and teach us to honor our shared humanity. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your love and power burst forth in the flashes of lightning, the dance of the wind, and the deeply rooted trees of the forest. Sustain fragile and interconnected ecosystems, that they flourish for generations to come. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Give your blessing of peace to the nations. Shelter all who risk life and livelihood to protect others from violence, conflict, and injustice. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have lost their lives in war and conflict (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You are a God of love and not of condemnation. Quiet the hearts of all who struggle with shame, regret, or questions of self-worth. Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing (*especially*). Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Strengthen bonds between parents, children, and families of all varieties. We pray especially for adoptive and foster families, multi-generational households, and blended families. Grant gifts of nurture and patience to all caregivers. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Loving God, as we begin our time of summer, remind us that not everyone has vacation or times of rest and renewal. The merchants on our cargo ships run 12 months a year moving supplies and merchandise all around the world. The respite they receive in harbor is short. Grant them peace and safe passage. Be with their families as they are away on long and often arduous journeys. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: The Spirit bears grateful witness to all children of God who have now come into their inheritance among the saints (*especially*). As they lived with hope in your gift of eternal life, so strengthen us in faith, that we recognize your eternal presence even in this mortal life. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**CHOIR ANTHEM *He Gives Me Peace***

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING P.144** (*in the beginning of the hymnal*)

**Dialogue**

**Preface by the Pastor**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!

Before all that is, you were God.

Outside all we know, you are God.

After all is finished, you will be God.

Archangels sound the trumpets,

angels teach us their song,

saints pull us into your presence.

And this is our song: **Holy Holy Holy**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**Words of Institution**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!  
You beyond the galaxies,  
    you under the oceans,  
        you inside the leaves,  
you pouring down rain,  
    you opening the flowers,  
        you feeding the insects,  
you giving us your image,  
    you carrying us through the waters,  
        you holding us in the night;  
your smile on Sarah and Abraham,  
    your hand with Moses and Miriam,  
        your words through Deborah and Isaiah;  
you lived as Jesus among us,  
    healing, teaching, dying, rising,  
        inviting us all to your feast.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
he 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.

Holy God, we remember your Son,  
his life with the humble,  
    his death among the wretched,  
        his resurrection for us all:  
Your wisdom our guide,  
    your justice our strength,  
        your grace our path to rebirth.

And so we cry, Mercy:  
**Mercy!**  
And so we cry, Glory:  
**Glory!**  
And so we cry, Blessing:  
**Blessing!**

Holy God, we beg for your Spirit:

Enliven this bread,  
awaken this body,  
pour us out for each other.  
Transfigure our minds,  
ignite your church,  
nourish the life of the earth.  
Make us, while many, united,  
make us, though broken, whole,  
make us, despite death, alive.

And so we cry, Come, Holy Spirit:  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**  
And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**  
And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three,  
our Life, our Mercy, our Might,  
our Table, our Food, our Server,  
our Rainbow, our Ark, our Dove,  
our Sovereign, our Water, our Wine,  
our Light, our Treasure, our Tree,  
our Way, our Truth, our Life.  
You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!  
Praise now,  
praise tomorrow,  
praise forever.

And so we cry, Amen, amen:  
**Amen, amen!**

Reprinted from *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table* by Gail Ramshaw, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress.

### **The Lord's Prayer p. 145**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

*The assembly is seated.*

#### **Communion**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*  
The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION** *Jesus, Name Above All Names* (repeat twice)  
*Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,*

*Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.  
The assembly stands.*

**Prayer after Communion**

A: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

**Blessing**

**P:** The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Song: *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies 888***

**Dismissal**

**P:** Go in peace. Remember those who have died serving our country.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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**Announcements**

We welcome our visitors and ask that you sign a Visitor Attendance and Holy Communion Card that is located in the pew rack. We ask that cards be returned via the offering plate at the front or rear of the church. We practice “open Communion” here at St. John meaning that all who believe in the “real presence” of Christ are welcomed to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We offer two choices for Holy Communion, wine or grape juice. Those worshipers desiring grape juice are asked at the communion rail to place their right hand over their heart after receiving “The Body of Christ.”

**Remember in prayer:** Rowan Aldridge, Jim Allen, Connie Barker, Danny Bennett, Maisy Boyles, Matteo Cooper, Agnes Cryder, Don Delaney, Helen Delaney, Mary Ellen Dougherty, Joanne Fisher, Dawn Fryer, Margaret Gohl, Dawn Hauser, Dean Hoffman, Myrtle Long, Mick Miller, Penny Parks-Dean, Cora Pelletier, Ben Saar, Pam Shuler, and all of our shut-ins.

We also remember in prayer Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Bishop Craig A. Miller - USS; for our Companion Synods in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany, and for peace in Ukraine and Israel.

We pray for the safety of **our military troops** around the world including Mark Baier, Isaac Boring, Jade Cordrey, Ben Cramer, Trevor and Nehemiah Eberhart, Patrick Hamlin, Paul Laidacker, Steven Moore, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Jeremy and Haley Naugle Sorrell, Rich Speicher, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Kevin Titus, and Jenna White. We also lift up in prayer their families who strive to keep a normalcy in the family and continue on.

**Special thanks to this week’s helpers:** Lector –Grace Welshans; Assisting Ministers--Joyce Braucht, Carl Schaefer; Head Usher –Gina Johnson; Teller–Lynette Yost; Bulletin Sponsor--Cindy Breon.



**Next weeks' helpers:** Lector –Kathy Brundick; Assisting Ministers --Ron Brundick and ; Head Usher –Deb Heydrich; Teller–Gina Johnson; Bulletin Sponsor--Betty Allen; Flowers -- .

The flowers are given to the glory of God.

The Sanctuary Candle in May is to the glory of God and in memory of our Pap by Nicole, Hannah, Bryan, and Adalynn.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod is seeking a young adult (ages 18-30) to serve at the Churchwide assembly July 28-August 2, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona. The costs are covered by the Synod. If you are interested, please see Pastor soon.

**This bulletin and more** can be found on church site [www.stjl.org](http://www.stjl.org)

Anyone interested in joining a **texting prayer chain** please text Christine Barner at 570-360-0178. This texting chain will send out the prayers that are received for the calling prayer chain. This chain is a one-way chain, please do not "reply" when you receive a message.

The Lutheran Church Women's **Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran. Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597      Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852.

Women of the Church has accepted a challenge to **collect new or gently worn shoes** for Missions. Please check your closets and bring the shoes in soon! Place them in the box near the elevator labeled for shoes.

**Pastor and Mrs. Aucker will be on vacation Friday, May 31 to Friday, June 7**  
**Pastoral needs will be covered by Pastor Carol Johnson 570-772-6674**

### Calendar

Sunday, May 26, 2024 Holy Trinity, 1st Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

1:00 p.m. Worship at Nippenose

Friday, May 31- Friday, June 7 Pastor is away on vacation

Sunday, June 2, 2024 9:30 Worship Service lead by Gary Johnson, ALWL

Saturday, June 22, 2024 Church Work Day at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 30, 2024 A Brunch in honors of Fathers after worship

