



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

August 23, 2020

Welcome! Today we celebrate Simon Peter's bold confession of faith, the firm rock upon which Jesus declared that the Church will be built. We also hear the Apostle Paul's important instructions to us not be conformed to this world but to offer all we do as a living sacrifice to God, using our individual gifts to build up the entire Church, which is the body of Christ.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude and Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity:
the Eternal One who dwells in light,
the ✠ Son who calls us to new life,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. **Amen.**

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

(Silence for personal reflection)

God of overflowing grace:

**We come to you with repentant hearts.
Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.
Forgive us for passing by the ones in need.
Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures.
Bring us home from the wilderness of sin,
and strengthen us to serve you in all we do,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

By the grace of God in ✠ Christ Jesus, who gave himself up for us,
your sins are forgiven and you are made free.
Let us rejoice with one another, as we find our home in God's mercy. **Amen.**

Choir

Praise and Thanks and Adoration

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.**

Prayer of the Day

O God,
with all your faithful people of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life.
Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son,
that we may gladly minister to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture and preaching; we respond in profession of faith and prayer

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-3

¹ Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.
² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.
³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.
³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor James Dew

Anthem

***We Walk By Faith and Not by Sight* by Michael Costello**

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith...

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

As a people gathered, empowered, and then sent to serve, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people who seek God's purpose and presence:

Holy God, we pray for your Church, gathered here and all around the world, that we may be more fully transformed into a people who carry Christ's name, daily living out our own increased discipleship. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people all around us who often experience exclusion and other obstacles, that you will use us to help strengthen their spirits, and to journey alongside them toward a more fullness of life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, O God, for those facing difficult choices, especially those dealing with addictions, or struggling with abusive situations, or repenting of their own sin, that your gentle Spirit guide them, and those who assist them, as they strive toward freedom and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of grace, we pray for all whose lives have been overshadowed by pain, or sickness, or grief. We lift up our prayers for *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny Knippa, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Albert and Deleyce Tietze, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Nat Castillo, Bill Witte, Beth Knox, Tom Bartholomew, Lauren Ottmers, Don Vogt, Lee and Karen Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Dean Olson, Janet Grun, Steve Wendel, Joe Reiner, Jonathan Sulaica*, and all whom we also name now, that you would touch their lives with new strength, a new sense of balance, and a new experience of both healing and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May the prayers we offer, O God, be a means by which you bring forth new life, not only hoped for, but worked for, through our own faithful word and deed. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

(Please verbally greet those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")

MEAL

*We bring our "first fruit" offerings to the Table of the Lord
where we are strengthened and nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ*

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness, to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your Anointed One.

Praise to you for your Spirit, poured out upon all nations.

For 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 to remember 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, as often as you drink of it, to remember me.

In and through this Holy Sacrament, we participate in our Lord's Passover from death to life,
and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

God of Promise, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast,
breathe new life into us, raise us up as the body of Christ, and send us forth for the sake of the world.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with earth and sea and all their creatures,
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and Holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**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

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. Amen.**

Holy Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist will be consumed in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.

Communion Prayer

O God, our life, our strength, our food:

Through this Holy Sacrament, this bread and wine received,

enliven us to be the body of Christ to the world,

that your Word take flesh in us,

that we may be your holy people,

reflecting your grace from the very midst of our own living,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord's face shine upon you with mercy and grace,

The Lord look upon you with favor,

And give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Choir

By Your Hand You Feed Your People

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ goes with you.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

This Week at St. John's

Today, August 23 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, August 23 @ 10:00am	Worship
Wednesday, August 26 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online (Zoom link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81564523395)

(Please see our online calendar at www.stjohnssa.org for other events.)

Ministry Opportunities at Christian Assistance Ministry

Clothing Needs

Accepting: gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women; casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes.

Not accepting at this time: any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear.

Contact Sarah Kory at skory@cam-sa.org or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

Help Feed the Hungry

Every other Tuesday, some members of St. John's deliver sandwiches to CAM around 11:00 am.

If you would like more information about this ministry and how you can lend support, please contact Bea Imken at 210-887-2217.

*For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org
The Prayer List is updated monthly (or as needed).*



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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