



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

August 30, 2020

Welcome! You really can't blame Simon Peter. He's certainly not the only one who doesn't grasp Jesus' vision of the true task of being God's Messiah. People still have trouble with Jesus' views of love and suffering even these days. Such sacrificial love is also described by St. Paul in the other portion of Scripture we hear this day when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. May we who gather for worship as a community of faith also learn to increasingly offer ourselves in love for the sake of our suffering world.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude and Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

In the Name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Humbling ourselves, yet held in grace, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

(A brief silence for reflection)

God of Promise:

**We confess that we have not lived as a people you would have us be,
and we have fallen short of your desire for us.**

**In your mercy, forgive us our failings, the wrongs we have done,
as well as the right and good things we have neglected to do.**

**Blow your Spirit among us, to open our hearts and hands anew,
that we may live as a people raised to new life, even here, even now. Amen.**

Our God is faithful, and for † Jesus' sake forgives you all your sins.

May his Spirit surround, fill, strengthen, and heal you,
to be living expressions of his grace, and indeed,
to lead you always toward everlasting life. **Amen.**

Choir

O Christ, Our Hope

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,
we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.
Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience,
and give us strength to follow your commands,
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

Romans 12:9-21

In these verses, Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships both within the church and beyond. Love is to be our solid standard of behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics, but seek to overcome it with good. While we cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

Immediately following Simon Peter's foundational confession that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (earlier in verse 16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry as God's promised Messiah. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has nicknamed a "rock."

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

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Sermon

Pastor James Dew

Anthem

Devotion by John Ness Beck

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:

God of heaven and earth, we pray that we may recognize our identity as your people so deeply, that we may also faithfully reflect your love and mercy through all we do. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we pray for the healing of the nations, that world leaders may lay aside pride and public image, so that justice and peace can be established for all people. Use us to help bring closer that day when all the world be both fed and filled. Work through us to bring an end to hatred, racism, inequality, and conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, our strength, we continue to pray for the well-being of all during this time of pandemic. Protect the most vulnerable among us. Safeguard all whose daily work puts them at greater risk. Shield our teachers and the students under their care. Bring peace to those who grieve. And enable us all to face these days with compassion, generosity, and sacrificial love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of promise, we lift up our prayers on behalf of many, including *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 those whom we also name, that you would provide for them the strength and the care, and the hope and the healing needed for each of their situations. 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.

Holy, Mighty, and Merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love for us and for all your creation, you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who took upon himself our own flesh and blood, who showed us your face,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

For on 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, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit, O God, upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that they become for your people the Body and Blood of Christ.
Send your Spirit also into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in this holy meal.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, 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

God our Father,

you renew our lives through the Bread of life of your Son

and through the forgiveness he offers.

Help us, in turn, to restore to life those who wait for our pardon,

that we may be a people who raise up one another

in the power of life and in your healing love. **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

Will You Come and Follow Me

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 30 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, August 30 @ 10:00am	Worship
Wednesday, Sept 2 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online (Zoom link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86939740982)
Wednesday, Sept 2 @ 7:00pm	Confirmation Class - Online (Zoom link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81376707366)

(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 11:00am.

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

Growing Generosity Through Legacy Planning

Good stewardship involves planning for your future, including giving to family and ministries that you love. How to plan a legacy that will reflect your faith and values will be discussed during "Growing in Generosity—Legacies That Last." This webinar, presented by Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, will be offered at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on two Wednesdays -- Sept. 9 and Sept 23 -- and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FAnTBa1rRyaP-E6ZSGT4Cw. For more information contact Deacon John Dellis, (830) 305-2758, jdellis@lfsw.org.

*For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org*



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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