

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 12, 2021

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Place for Everyone . . .

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The Rev. Linda Hostetter, Interim Pastor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

*Peace to all who enter God's house for worship today.
We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another.*

Congregation, please **stand/sit** as you are able.

Ⓟ Presiding Minister Ⓞ Congregation Ⓜ Assisting Minister

Welcome to our Visitors

*If you are a visitor, please see one of our greeters and fill out our gold visitor's slip.
We hope that you will come back and worship with us again!*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Please stand.

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, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God our comforter:

C like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in **+** Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *Lift High the Cross*

(green hymnal #377 verses 1-3)

GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray. O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ Amen.

Please be seated

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

L This is the word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-9

L/C *by whole verse*

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,
²**for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**
³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.
⁴**Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**
⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.
⁶**The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.**
⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul. for the LORD has dealt well with you.
⁸**For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**
⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

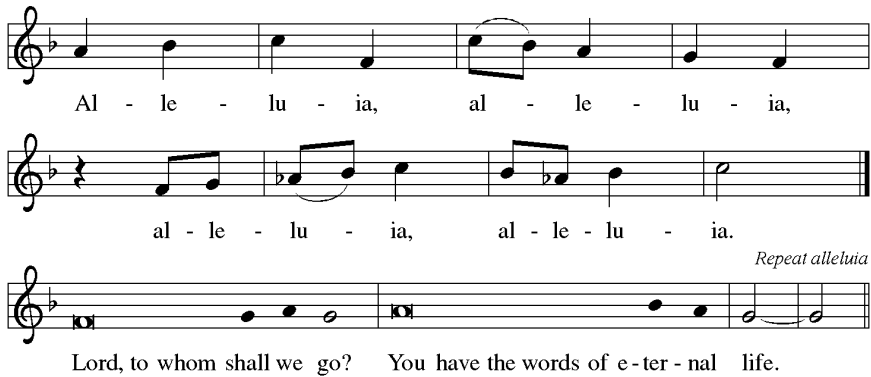
How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

☒ This is the word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 8th chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸ And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

²⁹ He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three

days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

GOSPEL RESPONSE

☒ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

(Silence for a time of reflection)

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult*
(green hymnal #494)

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

ℒ Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

ℒ Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared. Lord, in your mercy,

☉ hear our prayer.

L Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Healing God, you watch over us always and promise to be with us in the presence of all of our challenges. Hear our voices as we pray for those in our midst who are hurting in mind or body, (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

THE OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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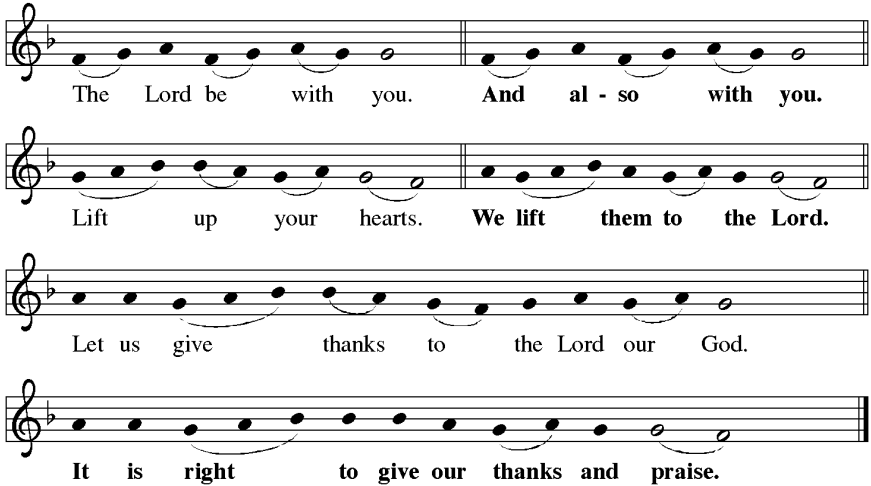
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. 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.

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

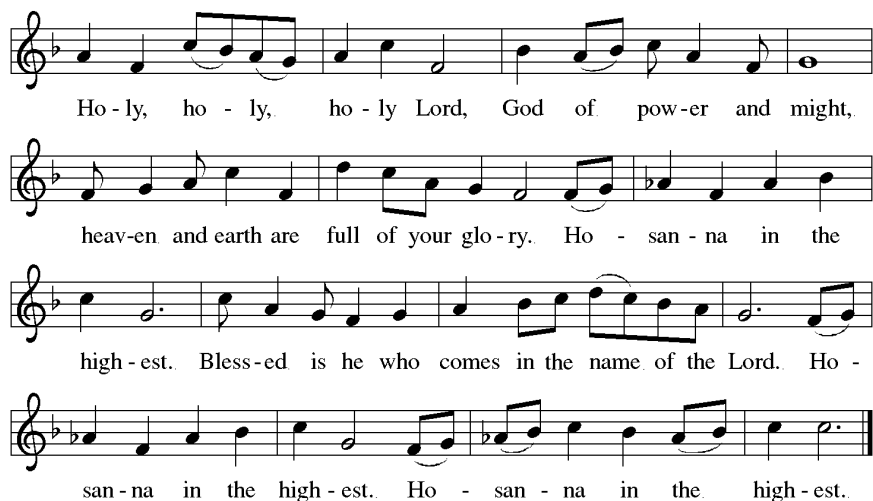
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

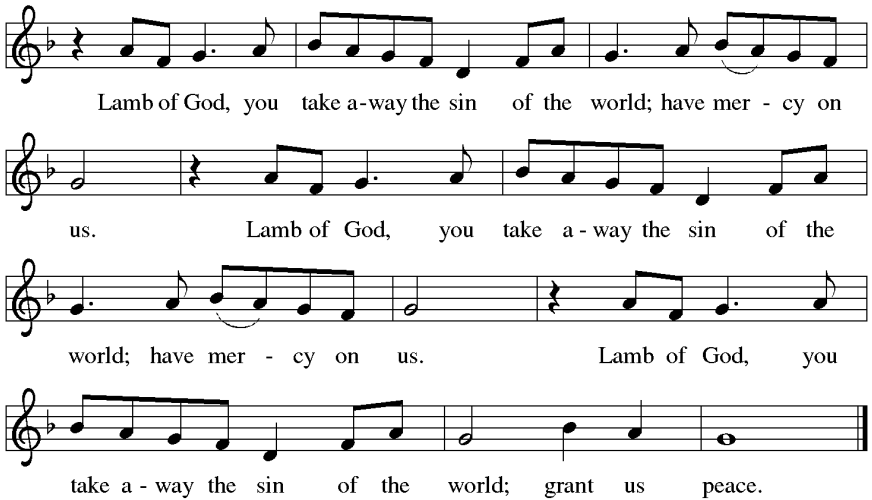
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please come forward to receive the bread, then proceed to the chalice to receive the wine or continue to the second chalice to receive grape juice. Those who do not yet commune may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN: *Around You, O Lord Jesus*
(green hymnal #496)

Please stand

BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. 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.

BENEDICTION

P People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✚ one God, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Lift High the Cross*
(green hymnal #377 verses 4-5)

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C Thanks be to God. We will!

POSTLUDE

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