September 12, 2021

16th Sunday after Pentecost



***St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church***

***933 Brookline Boulevard***

***Pittsburgh, PA 15226***

**Rev. Randall J. Marburger**

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**Please join us on Zoom at 9:30 AM Sundays**

Join by computer using Zoom: Meeting ID = 856 2680 1615 Password = church

or

Join by phone: Dial in # = (301) 715-8592

Meeting ID = 856 2680 1615 Password = 280633

**Our Purpose**

We are called and empowered by God to lead our family friends, and community into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Our Mission**

We will listen to, equip, and accompany each person on their journey to know God’s love and the plan of salvation.

**+ + + + + +**

**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.

***St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church***

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**Order of Worship**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**

P: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.** (Psalm 118:24)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and PRAYER REQUESTS**

**SHARING God Sightings**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**\*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.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE** (Spoken)

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

**We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father,**

**Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,**

**You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**In the glory of God the Father. Amen**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of your grace, that, pursuing what you have promised, we may share your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

(Please be seated.)

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a** Readings by Dave Wood

The First Lesson is from the 50th chapter of Isaiah.

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.
 9aIt is the Lord God who helps me;
  who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 116:1-9** (Read responsively)

 1I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication,
  because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
 2**The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me;**
  **I came to grief and sorrow.**
 3Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
  “O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”
 4**Gracious is the Lord and righteous;**
  **our God is full of compassion.**
 5The Lord watches over the innocent;
  I was brought very low, and he helped me.
 6**Turn again to your rest, O my soul.**
  **for the Lord has treated you well.**
 7For you have rescued my life from death,
  my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
 8**I will walk in the presence of the Lord**
  **in the land of the living.**

### **Second Reading: James 3:1-12**

A reading from James, Chapter 3.

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.

Here ends the reading.

### The word of the Lord.

### **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

### **\*Holy GOSPEL**: **Mark 8:27-38**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, Chapter 7.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

27Jesus 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?” 28And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” 29He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” 30And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

  31Then 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S message**

**SERMON Pastor Marburger**

**\*THE CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

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

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.**

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. Strengthen and encourage the people of California, Nevada, Louisiana, New York and New Jersey as they strive to recover. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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,

**hear our prayer.**

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need, especially . . . . Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

**You are merciful and gracious. We thank and praise you for . . . . We look for . . . to know of your never failing presence. God, in your mercy,**

**hear our prayer.**

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,

**hear our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Amen**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**\*DIALOGUE**

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.**

**\*PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father through Christ our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow’r and might:**

**Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise beyond the stars, beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day: across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor, with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**Amen.**

**\*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.**

**\*COMMUNION SONG**

**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, grant us peace.**

**the distribut****ion**

*(Keeping physical distance, you are invited to come forward to pick up your communion set and return to your seat. As you pick-up your communion set, The Pastor will say “The body of Christ; given for you – The blood of Christ; shed for you.” Once everyone has returned to their seats and sat down, we will commune together by eating the wafer first and then drinking the grape juice when the Pastor says – “*Let us partake of the gifts we have received.”*)*

Let us partake of the gifts we have received.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  **Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, in Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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***Announcements***

**Welcome Back, Norm!** We missed you.

**Calling everyone for Adult Sunday School in Miesel Hall today directly after church.** Masks will continue to be worn. We would love to have some new teachers! It will relate to the lectionary each week!

**Kids Club!** We would love to have some guest teachers! If you are interested please call or text Stacey Weihaus at 412-608-5445!

**Meals on Wheels needs volunteers.** If you are able to volunteer, we need you! Call Sue Earley at Meals on Wheels if you’re able to help 412-531-2925.

**Council will meet this Tuesday, Sept. 14** at 7:00 pm in Miesel Hall.

**Happy Birthday** to

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Philip Haftmann | 9/24 |
| Leo Levandowski | 9/24 |
| Ray Prosser | 9/24 |
| Ray Hatfield | 9/24 |
| Ezra Yingling | 9/24 |
| Susan Byers | 9/26 |
| Gregor Saulsbery | 9/27 |

**GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**September 12, 2021**

**Who Are You?**

“Who do people say that I am? . . . But who do *you* say that I am?” (Mark 8:27, 29). Jesus’ questions to the disciples highlight a distinction between what society at large recognizes about him, and what those closest to him know. From the outside, Jesus looks to many people like an important prophet or great moral teacher at best; at worst, he is an irrelevant rule-giver.

To those who know him, though, the answer is different. We who have been baptized into his family and nourished with his body and blood, we who hear his voice in the words of absolution and the promises of scripture, we who have felt his healing power through the gift of the Holy Spirit know just a bit more. This Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. Like Peter, even we who know the story may wish to reject the necessity of Christ’s death. The words of the beloved Holy Week hymn echo deeply, “Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?” (ELW 343).

Who are you? You are a sinner in need of redemption, the one for whom Christ has died, a beloved child of God, and a sibling of your Messiah. Jesus rebukes Peter not for Peter’s compassion or desire for Jesus to avoid suffering, but because the compassion and desire are misplaced. We need a Messiah—and we have one—precisely because we don’t need any more prophets, moral teachers, or irrelevant rule-givers. We are sinners who need forgiveness. We are broken people in need of healing. And we have found what we need in Jesus, the Messiah. The world will always set its mind on human things; may the Holy Spirit set your mind on divine things and continue to confirm in you the truth of Jesus Christ, who was crucified, died, and raised on the third day for you.