



St. John's of Hatboro

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 11, 2024

Bulletin for Online Service

The Good News for Today: God's Love is bigger than all our sorrow. Even though it still hurts.

To view this service, please visit [our YouTube channel](#).

Thank you for worshiping with St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

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.

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: Rejoice in the Mission – W&P 120 (Purple Book)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Oh, the Lord came down from
heav'n,
tiny baby, great physician,
gave his body and his blood
to live out a holy mission.
His disciples, they went out
to fulfill the great commission;
with a seed of faith so small,
learned a different kind of fishin'.
Will we go? | 2 | As we ponder and we plan
in this age of great transition,
we will keep the word of God
at the heart of each decision.
Praise the Father, Lord of love;
praise the Christ, in glory risen;
praise the Spirit, by whose pow'r
we will share the gifts we're
given--
as we go. <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|--|---|---|

Refrain

And we'll all share the vision,
who in Christ we all shall be.
Come, rejoice in the mission
of a new community.
In this place where we gather,
Jesus, still our restless souls;
to your Spirit we will listen.
We will go.

Text: Dan Bielenberg
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Arr. Michael Brinkworth

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Scriptures

2 Samuel 18:5-33

⁵The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

⁶ So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. ⁷ The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. ⁸ The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

⁹ Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. ¹⁰ A man saw it and told Joab, "I saw Absalom hanging in an oak." ¹¹ Joab said to the man who told him, "What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt." ¹² But the man said to Joab, "Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not raise my hand against the king's son, for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'For my sake protect the young man Absalom!' ¹³ On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof." ¹⁴ Joab said, "I will not waste time like this with you." He took three spears in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak. ¹⁵ And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

¹⁶ Then Joab sounded the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained the troops. ¹⁷ They took Absalom, threw him into a great pit in the forest, and raised over him a very great heap of stones. Meanwhile all the Israelites fled to their homes. ¹⁸ Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself a pillar that is in the King's Valley, for he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance." He called the pillar by his own name; it is called Absalom's Monument to this day.

¹⁹ Then Ahimaaz son of Zadok said, "Let me run and carry tidings to the king that the Lord has delivered him from the power of his enemies." ²⁰ Joab said to him, "You are not to carry tidings today; you may carry tidings another day, but today you shall not do so because the king's son is dead." ²¹ Then Joab said to a Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." The Cushite bowed before Joab and ran. ²² Then Ahimaaz son of Zadok said again to Joab, "Come what may, let me also run after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, seeing that you have no reward for the tidings?" ²³ "Come what may," he said, "I will run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by the way of the Plain and outran the Cushite.

²⁴ Now David was sitting between the two gates. The sentinel went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he looked up he saw a man running alone. ²⁵ The sentinel shouted and told the king. The king said, "If he is alone, there are tidings in his mouth." He kept coming and drew near. ²⁶ Then the sentinel saw another man running, and the sentinel called to the gatekeeper and said, "See, another man running alone!" The king said, "He also is bringing tidings." ²⁷ The sentinel said, "I think the first one runs like Ahimaaz son of Zadok." The king said, "He is a good man and comes with good tidings."

²⁸ Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, “All is well!” He prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground and said, “Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king.” ²⁹ The king said, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” Ahimaaz answered, “I saw a great tumult when the king’s servant Joab sent your servant, but I do not know what it was.” ³⁰ The king said, “Turn aside, and stand here.” So he turned aside and stood still.

³¹ Then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, “Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.” ³² The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” The Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to do you harm be like that young man.”

³³ The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept, and as he went he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths
I cry to you, O Lord;

² **O Lord, hear my voice!**
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch over sins,
O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you is forgiveness,**
in order that you may be feared.

⁵ I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;
in your word is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,**
more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;
with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

⁸ **For the Lord shall redeem Israel**
from all their sins.

Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go

down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

John 6:35, 41-51

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” ⁴³ Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – “All the Best Cowboys Have Daddy Issues” –

Pastor Bo Bannister

The Apostles’ Creed

With the whole church let us 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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit, and remembering Clare of San Damiano, who was known for her powerful prayer, root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Sustain feeding ministries and organizations such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries. We work and pray for a day when hunger is no more. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping with Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray, saying:

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.

Hymn: He Is Exalted – W&P 55 (Purple Book)

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name
Jesus is Lord, forever his truth shall reign; heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high

Text and Music: Twila Paris
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Arr. Michael Brinkworth

Benediction and Dismissal

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

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