



**St. John's of Hatboro**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026

*The Good News for Today: Through every ordeal, know that your well-being matters to God.*

*Thank you for worshiping with us at St. John's. Please fill out your yellow attendance card and place it in the offering plate when we collect the offering later in the service.*

*God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.*

### Gathering Music

*STAND*

#### Hymn: How Firm a Foundation — ELW 796 (Red Book)

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.  
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design  
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,  
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,

**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

**Amen.**

## Welcome & Greeting

Welcome to 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.

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

Let us pray... Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*SIT*

## The Readings

### Jeremiah 20:7-13

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.*

7 O Lord, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;

you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I must cry out;  
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the Lord has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup> If I say, "I will not mention him  
or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering:  
"Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him  
and take our revenge on him."

<sup>11</sup> But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup> O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup> Sing to the Lord;  
praise the Lord!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 69:7-18

<sup>7</sup> Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach,  
and shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup> **I have become a stranger to my own kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.**

<sup>9</sup> Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

<sup>10</sup> **I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.**

<sup>11</sup> I put on sackcloth also,  
and became a byword among them.

<sup>12</sup> **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

<sup>13</sup> But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O Lord:  
“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

<sup>14</sup> **Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;  
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.**

<sup>15</sup> Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;  
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

<sup>16</sup> **Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind;  
in your great compassion, turn to me.**

<sup>17</sup> Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

<sup>18</sup> **Draw near to me and redeem me;  
because of my enemies deliver me.**

## Romans 6:1b-11

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection.  
We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed  
from sin.*

<sup>1b</sup> Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die

again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

*STAND*

**Gospel Acclamation** — ELW p. 151 (Red Book)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia.

## **Matthew 10:24-39**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup> it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup> “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup> What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup> Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup> And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup> “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,  
<sup>36</sup> and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup> “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup> and whoever does not take

up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*SIT*

Sermon – “Even the Hairs of Your Head” – Pastor Bo Bannister

*STAND*

Hymn: Lead On, O King Eternal – ELW 805 (Red Book)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Lead on, O King eternal!<br>The day of march has come;<br>henceforth in fields of conquest<br>your tents will be our home.<br>Through days of preparation<br>your grace has made us strong;<br>and now, O King eternal,<br>we lift our battle song.         | 3 | Lead on, O King eternal:<br>we follow, not with fears,<br>for gladness breaks like morning<br>where'er your face appears.<br>Your cross is lifted o'er us;<br>we journey in its light;<br>the crown awaits the conquest;<br>lead on, O God of might! |
| 2 | Lead on, O King eternal,<br>till sin's fierce war shall cease,<br>and holiness shall whisper<br>the sweet amen of peace;<br>for not with swords loud clashing,<br>nor roll of stirring drums,<br>but deeds of love and mercy<br>the heav'nly kingdom comes. |   |  |

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917

## 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

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints like Onesimos Nesib who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

**Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

*SIT*

## Announcements

*Printed copies of our weekly announcements are available at the usher's stand in the Narthex, and monthly newsletters are on the Hospitality Table. Please include your email address on your yellow attendance card to receive announcements electronically.*

## Offering

*STAND*

### Offertory Hymn: Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

– ELW 884 (Red Book)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

## Offering Prayer

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

**Amen.**

## 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, God, holy Father, the ground of all being. For just as through your beloved Son you created humanity, so also through him with great goodness you form it anew. And so, it is right that all your creatures serve you, all the redeemed praise you, and all your blessed saints with one heart bless you. Therefore, we, too, extol you with all the angels, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

## Sanctus — ELW p. 153 (Red Book)

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.

## Eucharistic Prayer

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, the nest and the hunt, sunshine and storm, darkness and light. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song:

The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

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 for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:

The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again:

The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

Amen, and Amen.

**Amen, and Amen.**

And now, as Christ taught us to pray, we say:

## 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.**

*SIT*

## Invitation to Communion

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

## Distribution of the Elements

### Lamb of God

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.

*STAND*

## Post-Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you keep you in his Grace.

**Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: Borning Cry — ELW 732 (Red Book)

- 1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell."
- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word  
I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living Lord,  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun."
- 3 "In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I've begun.  
When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been,  
with just one more surprise."
- 4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937  
Text © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

## Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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