

**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 12, 2021**



*The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.*

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.

**Hymn** "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ELW 810

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me,  
my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if you will be my guide.
  
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised  
to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory  
your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow,  
my master and my friend.

**The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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.**

**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.**

**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.*

<sup>4</sup>The 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.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I 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.  
<sup>7</sup>The 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;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**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.*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>Or 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. <sup>5</sup>So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

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

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: MARK 8: 27-38**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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.*

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

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But 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."

<sup>34</sup>He 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. <sup>35</sup>For 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. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those 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.**

**Homily** The Rev. Kurt S. Strause

## Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response is “**Hear our prayer.**”

### Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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**

**Hymn**            “Lead On, O King Eternal”            ELW 805

- 1    Lead on, O King eternal!  
      The day of march has come;  
      henceforth in fields of conquest  
      your tents will be our home.  
      Through days of preparation  
      your grace has made us strong;  
      and now, O King eternal,  
      we lift our battle song.
  
- 3    Lead on, O King eternal:  
      we follow, not with fears,  
      for gladness breaks like morning  
      where'er your face appears.  
      Your cross is lifted o'er us;  
      we journey in its light;  
      the crown awaits the conquest;  
      lead on, O God of might!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

## Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" Michael Burkhardt

**Altar Flowers** given in honor of Glenn & Linda Beard's 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Denise, Glenn, Missy, Taylor and Mac and Kylee and Dan.

**Sanctuary Candle** given in memory of grandparents by Ron & Joyce Stoner.

**NOTE** – Please contact Joyce Stoner if you want to sponsor the Sanctuary Candle or Altar Flowers – 717 336-7077. Sundays available.



Michael A. Crowther  
Margaret Elser  
Clyde Showalter  
Betty Hornberger  
Charles Moyer  
Josie Reitz

Alverta Showalter  
Clarice Haws  
Pastor Jim Miller  
Mary Ann Weitzel  
Ella Shirk

Katie Houck  
Sue Kittler  
Katie Mera  
Susan Levan  
Nancy Kulp  
Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)  
Clair Sweigart  
Janice Moyer Kelly  
Josie Reitz  
Judy Sauder  
Pastor Jim Miller  
Debbie Myers  
Lisa Buckles (friend of Sue Ellen Knauer)  
Phyllis Miller (cousin of Jen Weitzel)  
Glenn Beard, Sr.

Sharon Fremont – (friend of Sue Kreitz)  
Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)

Hunter Leisey  
Jean Wolf  
Ashton Faust  
John Frantz  
Earl Myers  
Joan Long  
Margaret Elser  
Shirley Martzall (friend of Ranck family)  
Kelly O'Hara (friend of Jen Weitzel)  
Matt Hollinger (friend of Weitzel Family)  
Marie McQuate  
Janice Ballenger (friend of Connie Taylor)



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** – Our distribution of food continues on an ongoing basis. We specifically are short of canned meat items – except tuna! We have a need currently for **spaghetti**, toilet paper and **paper towels** (individually wrapped), **soup**, cereal, **tuna**, and snacks (including cookies, graham crackers and crackers). Italics and bold are in dire need currently. Thank you to the congregation for your continued support!

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC** – The Annual Church Picnic will be held *September 12<sup>th</sup>* after church. Meal will be served at 11AM. Join us for a delicious pig roast and all the trimmings. Food and drink will be provided. ***Bring a dessert to share.*** Bocce ball and corn hole will be available to enjoy.

**FLOWER DELIVERY** –The church needs volunteers to deliver flowers to our sick and shut-ins after our worship service each Sunday. The church secretary, Brenda, will coordinate this effort for the worship team. Please call the church or email Brenda at [secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org) if you are willing to be part of a rotating group of volunteers for this vital outreach. This will begin on September 12<sup>th</sup>. *Thank you for volunteering!*

**SCHOOL KITS** - We are presently accepting donations of items for school kits through the end of September for this year's LWR school kit project. The items most needed are the **notebooks, rulers, and pens**. No backpacks are needed thanks to Jane! All items are listed below. Donations may be given to Jane Leshner, Denise Null and Connie Taylor. Last year, despite the obstacles, we put together 54 backpacks and delivered to the LWR pick-up site. Thank you to all who donated supplies and a special thanks to Beatty Gress for helping us achieve this amount. Thanks for all the help! While we still have a surplus of pencils, we depleted most of our other supplies last year, so we are starting from "scratch". We appreciate everyone following the guidelines listed below, as Lutheran World Relief will not send anything that does not adhere to these guidelines.

Thanks so much! Debbie Carvell

**70-80** sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper approximately 8" x 10 ½" – 4 per backpack

30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other side – 1 per backpack

Pencil sharpeners – 1 per backpack

**Blunt** scissors (safety scissors). (They must say this on the packaging) – 1 per backpack

Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers – 5 per backpack

Black or blue ink pens – 5 per backpack

Packs of 16 or 24 crayons – 1 pack per backpack

2 ½" erasers – 1 per backpack

**Congregational Meeting** - A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, September 26 to consider extending a call to a new pastor. The meeting will follow immediately after the morning service in which the candidate will preach and lead worship. Biographical information as well as an announcement about an opportunity to meet the candidate ahead of time has been mailed or emailed to all confirmed members of the congregation.



The Swamp Lutheran Handbell Choir will be starting their 20<sup>th</sup> season of ringing and we are looking for some new recruits to join in the fun! Our first practice/meeting will take place on **Monday, Sept. 13 at 7:30** in the church sanctuary. No experience is necessary. We are happy to work with beginners at all musical levels. Please contact Doug Kulp (717-333-5744) or any member of the Bell Choir for more information.

**INVITATION** – The family of James K. Beard invites all from the congregation to a Memorial Service in his honor, on Saturday, September 18, 2021 to be held at Swamp Lutheran Church at 11:00AM. The celebration will be a Polka Mass.

**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARIES** - The church would like to recognize those who are celebrating 50+ wedding anniversaries or 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of membership. Please notify the church office by email at [secretary@swamplutheran.org](mailto:secretary@swamplutheran.org) or by phone at 717-336-2849 if you fall into one of these categories.

### ZOOM BIBLE STUDY FOR FALL

Pastor will begin a zoom Bible study on **Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7PM**, titled; *Lutheranism: A Movement Rooted in Grace*. A proposed outline for the study is:



- Session 1: Where Did We Come From? A Fast History of Christianity from 33 to 1500 AD.
- Session 2: The Reformation: Luther 1517, and ALL That
- Session 3: Theology: The Word of God Deep in the Flesh
- Session 4: Theology: The Heart of the Matter—Justification by Faith.
- Session 5: Lutherans Today: From Europe to North America and beyond.
- Session 6: Where are the Lutherans Headed?

Details for registration link will be on website closer to our start date.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS** – Choir rehearsals will begin Wednesday, September 15 at 7:00PM. We will meet weekly and will rehearse in the choir pews in the sanctuary. Please enter by the back door by the church office. Please invite and encourage any new singers to join our group.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

*The Altars Where We Worship*

Lois Strause will be beginning an Adult Sunday School study on **October 3, 2021 following our worship service**. This will be an in-person class. The study will discuss how we replace our relationship with God, which we call religion, with other idols that are part of our everyday living. The Bible teaches us that we should put righteous living above all other pursuits of the flesh and mind. Together we will consider how we might inadvertently replace God with other idols such as: *Entertainment Sports Consumerism Popular Culture*. Plan to join us on Sunday mornings after the church service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

## TOUCH A TRUCK

SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH  
275 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD, REINHOLDS PA 17569

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 9:30 AM-11:30 AM



COME CLIMB AND EXPLORE VARIOUS TRUCKS AND TRACTORS,  
AND DOG TRAINING DEMONSTRATION  
BRING A CAN GOOD FOR THE CHURCH'S FOOD PANTRY  
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE







