



**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**September 12, 2021**

**MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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**Welcoming all**  
**Reaching out in love**  
**Growing together in Christ**  
**Worshipping and serving in Jesus' name**

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**Office hours - Monday and Wednesday: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm**  
**Tuesday and Thursday by appointment**

**Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church. As you prepare for Worship, please silence your cell phone, complete the connection card and place it in the offering plate.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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.

## **GATHERING**

*In order to keep us all safe for the time being there will be no singing of the liturgy or the hymns because the spread of the virus is greatly increased by singing.*

## **WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

- Behnke

*Please kneel or sit*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundant grace, 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 for you alone have the words of eternal life. Forgive us, renew us, and strengthen us, so we may live in the world showing your gifts of faith and eternal life. 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 of all your sins and loved into abundant life. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“Glory to God”*

**READ TOGETHER**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**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*

## **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.*

<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 awakens — awakens 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.**

**PSALM 116:1-9 READ RESPONSIVELY**

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

<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.**

*Please stand*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Alleluia.*** Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. ***Alleluia.*** (1 Pet. 3:18)

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

<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.**

*Please be seated*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY** *“Will You Come and Follow Me”*

**ELW 798**

*The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.*

*“Will you come and follow me if I but call  
your name? Will you go where you don't  
know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
name be known, will you let my life be  
grown in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life  
attract or scare? Will you let me answer  
pray'r in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you let the blinded see if I but call  
your name? Will you set the pris'ners  
free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as  
this unseen, and admit to what I  
mean in you and you in me?”*

*“Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
your name? Will you quell the fear  
Inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the  
world around, through my sight and touch and  
sound in you and you in me?”*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call  
my name. Let me turn and follow  
you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and  
footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and  
grow in you and you in me.*

## 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 into hell.  
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

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

*A brief silence.*

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 (*recent destructive events may be named here*). 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.**

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace (*especially*). 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.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Everyone is to remain in their pew for the passing of the peace. To share the peace with someone sitting near you, share a slight bow, wave, or cross your arms with hands touching the opposite arm, a gesture of embrace.)*

*Please be seated*

## **ORGAN OFFERTORY**

*The Ushers will collect the offering*

## **OFFERTORY**

*Please stand*

## **MEAL**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**Amen.**

## **THE 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.**

## **PREFACE - SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*Read Together*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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, therefore, his acts of healing his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

Reveal yourself to us Lord in the breaking of the bread.

**As once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

*Please be seated*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. Please come forward by the center aisle at the usher's direction. If you choose to have wine for communion, take an empty cup from the usher. If you prefer grape juice, receive a pre-filled cup at the altar. If you or a child has never received the sacrament, fold hands to receive a blessing instead. After receiving communion or a blessing, you may choose to remain at the altar for extra time in prayer. When you return to your pew do so by the side aisles. Please deposit the empty cup in the basket.*

## COMMUNION HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together" **ELW 471**

*The organist will play the hymn but we will not sing. Please read the words as she plays. Even in our silence the meaning of the hymn will be present to us.*

*Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.*

*Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising  
sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees.      Refrain*

*Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees.      Refrain*

*Please stand*

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

### **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**POSTLUDE** *“Fugue in D Minor”*

*- Bach*

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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