

Cover: Song of Solomon by Cody F. Miller. Copyright & Cody F. Miller. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocryphu, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our wabsite at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

20250810-LEC19

ITEM013504

ELCA-K

#### ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

9th Sunday After Pentecost • August 10, 2025

#### **Reverent Reflection**

**Prelude** 

Welcome

#### **Church Announcements**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

- P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. Amen.
- P. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C. Amen.
- P. Most merciful God,
- C. 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.

- P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. 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.
- C. Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:** The King Of Love My Shepherd Is (#502)

#### **Apostolic Greeting**

- P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C. And also with you.

#### Kyrie p. 147

- P. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. Lord, have mercy.
- P. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

- C. Lord, have mercy.
- P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. Lord, have mercy.
- P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. Amen.

#### Canticle p. 149

- P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
- C. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

#### Word

#### First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 33:12-22

Response: "Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you."

- <sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!
- <sup>13</sup> The Lord looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.
- <sup>14</sup> God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.
- <sup>15</sup> God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds. R
- <sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.
- <sup>17</sup> The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.
- <sup>18</sup> Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
- <sup>19</sup> to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine. R

- <sup>20</sup> Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord, our helper and our shield.
- <sup>21</sup> Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.
- <sup>22</sup> Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you. **R**

#### Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

<sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

#### **Gospel Acclamation p. 151**

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

#### Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 32"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." The gospel of the Lord.

#### Praise to you, O Christ.

#### Sermon

#### Children's Sermon

#### **Anthem**

#### **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 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**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened (places may be named). Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace.

God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need (especially). Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and other means of support and advocacy.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance (especially Lawrence, deacon and martyr). Sustain us in our hope of things not seen.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Sharing of the Peace**

#### Offering

#### Great Thanksgiving p. 152

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Lift up your hearts.
- C. We lift them to the Lord.
- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### Preface p. 153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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.

#### **Words of Institution**

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153

#### **Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Communion p. 154

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.

#### **Distribution of Holy Communion**

**Communion Hymns:** Bread Of Life From Heaven (#474)

I Come With Joy (#482)

Let Us Break Bread Together (#471)

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**Blessing** 

**Sending Hymn:** Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer (#618)

**Dismissal** 

**Postlude** 

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday 10:00 am Summer Sunday Morning Church Service

11:30 am Band Rehearsal

Wednesday 7:00 pm Band Rehearsal

Ongoing Shelf Stable Milk Collection

Diaper Collection for Baby Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin

**Beverly Warmin** 

Helen Yezusko

**Bob Zielsdorf** 

Sunday, August 10th
11:00 am
Summer Sundays in the Ed. Building
Saturday, August 16th
10:30 am
Paddling in Parvin with Pastor
Sunday, August 17th
11:00 am
Summer Sundays in the Ed. Building

Wednesday, August 20th 7:00 pm Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room

Sunday, August 24th 11:00 am Summer Sundays in the Ed. Building Sunday, August 31st 11:00 am Summer Sundays in the Ed. Building

*Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.* 

#### **PRAYER LIST**

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey Marie Lentine Douglas **Eunice Knopp** Erica Polito Michael Botti Kimberly Rickert Tracey Drew Joe Kuhn Indie Fisher **Brian Byrnes** Naveen Kumar Ashley Rosser Randy Cantoral Rhea Frvor Dorcas Schellhas Donna Leek Finn Schureman Janet Cappuccio **Bob Garner** Rebecca Livingston Frank Siderio III Sandra DeRitis Angela Guedes Donald McClure Barbara Doelling Stan Harmer Joanne McVelli Eric Sprengel Janice Stronski Helen Dominic Ann Henning Melanie Miles Valerie Hoffmann Bill Todt Frank Donovan Kent Montford

Rosemarie Doucette Tracey Kelly Sue Murphy George Vaneman, Sr.

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th**

In memory of Taylor Renae Torbik on her 21<sup>st</sup> Heavenly Birthday.

Dedicated by mommy and daddy

#### ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please see Pat Reed to make payment.

#### **JUST A REMINDER...**

We are accepting donations of Shelf Stable Milk for Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.

Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.

#### HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BERLIN BABY PANTRY NEED



# BABY DIAPERS (especially larger sizes)

Collection will take place in the Narthex.



## SUMMER SUNDAYS WITH GLITTER, GRACE & GAMES!

Every Sunday from June 30<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> after the Worship Service in the Ed. Building.

Bible verse theme every Sunday with crafts and outdoor games. Please come and join the fun!





# PADDLING WITH PASTOR

AT PARVIN STATE PARK

**AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>** 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM



# **GRIEF GATHERING**

Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm in the Parish Tea Room

All Are Welcome!

# ST. JOHN'S 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, September 27th · White Oaks Country Club

Proceeds to Benefit John's Monthly Community Outreach Luncheons

For more information, please contact Joe Antonelli at 609-579-4207 or email to 33miracle@comcast.net

Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.

## 502

# The King of Love My Shepherd Is



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.
   Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

## Bread of Life from Heaven

474



# I Come with Joy

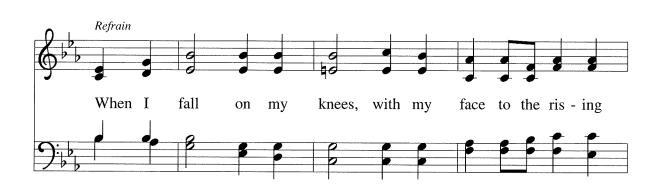


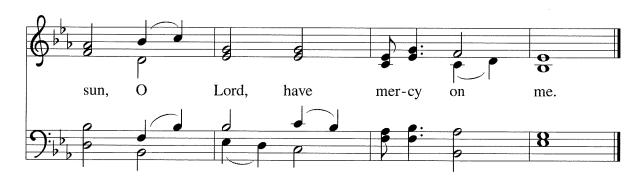
Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company DOVE OF PEACE 86866

# Let Us Break Bread Together

## 471







Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual

## 618

# Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



#### Save Time ... no need for checks or envelopes

ELCA-Endorsed Tithe.ly giving platform enables you to tithe online or using the app.

- From your checking account or using your debit/credit card
- One–time donation or set up for recurring giving
- Designate specific ministry for your donation
- Scan the QR code to get started
- For assistance or questions, contact Tom Schofield or Henry Fickenscher



#### ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094

Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com

Website: www.stjohnselc1002.org

ST. JOHN'S STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer
Deacons: Betsey Eley/Ken Weaver
Administrative Coordinator: Pat Reed

Treasurer: Henry Fickenscher Head Usher: Ted Adams **Music Director: Janice Smith** 

Instrumental Music Director: Ken Weaver

**Sexton: Betsey Eley** 

Webmaster: Tom Schofield

**Publications Director: Marie Fickenscher**