



**United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!**

*“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**September 12, 2021**

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones    Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman**

**Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz    Soloist: Kyla Betts**

**Lector: Bob Kluge (8:00) Tiffany Vienneau (10:00)**

**Ushers: Myron Sime’s Team (8:00)    Mike, Siri, Soren Venneau (10:00)**

**Technical Support: Thomas Lehr**

**Altar Flowers are given by Gerry Ross in memory of Deanna Ross and Herb & Betty Muehlemann**

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.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Come, Now Is the Time to Worship” First Class Ringers**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God our comforter:

C: **like lost sheep we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✝ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins

C: **Amen.**

*Stand*

**HYMN: "Lift High the Cross" #660 ELW**

***Refrain:* Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**vs. 1: Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain***

**vs. 2: All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain***

## **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.**

**SKIT: "What's Happening?" (10:00)**

## **LITANY**

P: The word is near you,

C: **on your lips and in your heart.**

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: **and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: **and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE: "Praise God, from Whom all Blessing Flow" #884 ELW**

**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.**

**SALUTATION**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** **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.**

*Sit*

**ANTHEM: "Jesus Loves Me"**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9 (8:00)**

The Master, GOD, has given me a well-taught tongue, So I know how to encourage tired people. He wakes me up in the morning, Wakes me up, opens my ears to listen as one ready to take orders. The Master, GOD, opened my ears, and I didn't go back to sleep, didn't pull the covers back over my head. I followed orders, stood there and took it while they beat me, held steady while they pulled out my beard, Didn't dodge their insults, faced them as they spit in my face. And the Master, GOD, stays right there and helps me, so I'm not disgraced. Therefore I set my face like flint, confident that I'll never regret this. My champion is right here. Let's take our stand together! Who dares bring suit against me? Let him try!

Look! the Master, GOD, is right here. Who would dare call me guilty? Look! My accusers are a clothes bin of threadbare socks and shirts, fodder for moths!

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Lord Speak to Us, That We May Speak” #676 ELW (8:00)**

**vs. 1: Lord, speak to us, that we may speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let us seek  
your straying children, lost and lone.**

**vs. 3: Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach  
*the precious truths which you impart;*  
and wing our words, that they may reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, “Who do the people say I am?” <sup>28</sup> “Some say ‘John the Baptizer,’” they said. “Others say ‘Elijah.’ Still others say ‘one of the prophets.’” <sup>29</sup> He then asked, “And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?” Peter gave the answer: “You are the Christ, the Messiah.” <sup>30-32</sup> Jesus warned them to keep it quiet, not to breathe a word of it to anyone. He then began explaining things to them: “It is necessary that the Son of Man proceed to an ordeal of suffering, be tried and found guilty by the elders, high priests, and religion scholars, be killed, and after three days rise up alive.” He said this simply and clearly so they couldn’t miss it. <sup>32-33</sup> But Peter grabbed him in protest. Turning and seeing his disciples wavering, wondering what to believe, Jesus confronted Peter. “Peter, get out of my way! Satan, get lost! You have no idea how God works.” <sup>34-37</sup> Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; I am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?” <sup>38</sup> “If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I’m leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends, know that you’ll be an even greater embarrassment to the Son of Man when he arrives in all the splendor of God, his Father, with an army of the holy angels.”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*

**CHILDREN'S WORD (10:00)**

**SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN: Will You Come and Follow Me" #798 ELW vs. 1,2,5**

**vs. 1: "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?**

**vs. 2: "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?**

**vs. 5: 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.**

**APOSTLE'S 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 INTERCESION**

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

*A Brief Silence*

**P:** 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** 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. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **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**

**P:** Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

## **COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace until life everlasting.

**C:** Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood, you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## **ANOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

**BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

**P:** People of God, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ✝ one God, bless you now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**SENDING HYMN: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" #543 ELW**

**vs. 1: "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.**

**Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.**

**In my love's baptismal river**

**I have made you mine forever.**

**Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."**

**vs. 2: "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.**

**Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.**

**Here you heard my dear Son's story,**

**here you touched him, saw his glory.**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."**

**vs. 3: "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.**

**Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.**

**Here my Spirit's power filled you,**

**here my tender comfort stilled you.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."**

**POSTLUDE: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" Thomerson/Trapp**