



Service of the Word
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 12, 2021



SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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P-Presiding Minister

A-Assisting Minister

C-Congregation

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the presiding minister begins:

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.

*Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.*

*Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.*

*As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.*

*I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.*

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**ELW Setting 8, Page 184****Refrain**

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.*

For peace in the world, for the health of the church,

*for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.*

Refrain

*That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.*

Refrain

*For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.*

Refrain

*For your Spirit to guide;
that you center our lives in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.*

Refrain

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.**

*open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,*

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

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.

⁴The 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.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,

and I was not rebellious,

I did not turn backward.

⁶I 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.

⁷The 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;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 116:1-9

I will walk in the presence of the Lord. (Ps. 116:9)

¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the Lord has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon
me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.

⁶**The Lord watches over the innocent;
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul.
for the Lord has dealt well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

⁹I 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.

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

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

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 8, Page 188

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mark 8:27-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the eighth chapter.

C: 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.

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

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

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

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carl Ballard

*The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord,
the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
the peace of the Lord is for you and for me,
and also for all of God's children.*

*The peace of the Lord is for you and for me,
and also for all of God's children.*

*The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord,
peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
the peace of the Lord is among us right now,
so open yourselves to receive it.*

*The peace of the Lord is among us right now,
so open yourselves to receive it.*

*The peace of the Lord, the peace of the Lord,
the peace of the risen Lord Jesus:
the peace of the Lord kept within cannot live,
so open yourselves now to share it.*

*The peace of the Lord kept within cannot live,
so open yourselves now to share it.*

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.**

THE PRAYERS

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

(A brief silence)

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: 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. We pray especially for *Beth & Ryan, Jonathan, Noah, Irene, and Alex*. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Loving God, you look with compassion on all who need your healing care. Tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer. We pray especially for those we lift before you now. (*a brief moment for those names to be shared in prayer*) Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(*Ahren, the Anderson family, Barb & family, Bev, Charles, Cindy, Deb, Gary, Harrison & Sara, Helen & family, Jon, Judy's family, Kris, Lawton, Lizzy, Lori & Russ, Lynne & Jim, Marge, Mary, Bev & family, Adam & Shani & Ezra, Steve & family, Stacy & Char*)

A: 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.

A: Giving God, you have gathered your people into church families. Fill this congregation with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the needs of our neighbors. We especially lift up to you Presiding Bishop Elizabeth, our Synod Bishop Craig, and Pastor Carl. We ask that you be with their respective staffs as they live out their callings to serve. As we are called to be one, even as Jesus and the Father are one, be with the leaders and the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church in Grayling. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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.

GREETING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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

P: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Refrain

*Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness.*

*Hallelujah! We sing your praises,
all our hearts are filled with gladness. **Repeat***

Christ the Lord to us said:

I am wine, I am bread,

I am wine, I am bread,

*give to all who thirst and hunger. **Repeat. Refrain***

Now he sends us all out,

strong in faith, free of doubt,

strong in faith, free of doubt.

*Tell to all the joyful gospel. **Repeat. Refrain***

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Pastor Carl's office hours are by appointment.