

## Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021

In Person worship, Saturday, 5 pm and Sunday at 9 am

Sunday service will be livestream on Facebook at 9 am

\* = Stand; + = Kneel or Sit

### GATHERING

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the leader begins.*

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

*The leader leads the following prayer of preparation.*

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these words.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

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. **Amen.**

**\*GREETING**

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.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24**

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel  
I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

**PSALM: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

<sup>2</sup>to herald your love | in the morning  
and your faithful- | ness at night;

<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,  
and to the melody | of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;  
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.**  
<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD  
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**  
<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit | in old age;  
they shall be | green and succulent;  
<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,  
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17**

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[<sup>11</sup>Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**\* GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?  
<sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth;  
<sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches,

so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY – “God Is Here”**

**ELW# 526**

### **\*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 INTERCESSION**

Let us come before the triune God in prayer. Let us pray.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness, those who mourn, and those with chronic disease. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians: Matthew our director, the Bell Choir, Joyful Noise, and our Adult Choir. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you. We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**\*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**

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**

**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**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*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.**

**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.      *each person may respond Amen.*

### **\*TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **SENDING**

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **\*BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE:**

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Bulletins are dedicated in honor of all essential workers by Mark and Elyse Gilbert

One vase of altar flowers has been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mabel and John Schwenk presented by Harry, Jack, Carl, Joyce, Jonathan, Justin, Emily and Katelyn.

**Prayer Requests** – Please email, text, or call Pastor Kathy with your prayer requests. First names only will be used in our worship service that is livestreamed. Please direct Pastoral care requests in the same way.

**In Home Holy Communion kits** for June are available upon request. With the easing of Covid restrictions if you no longer wish to have a kit, please inform the church office. Remember to always return your kit and remaining supplies from the previous month.

**Online Bible Study** meets Thursday nights at 7 pm using ZOOM. We are currently studying the book of Job. Contact Charles Hawk or Pastor Kathy for the information to connect with the group. Please join us!

**Easing of Covid Restrictions.** Worship Reservations are no longer necessary and you may use any door to enter or exit the church. Many of the items that were removed from the pews will be returning (i.e. cushions, etc.). With less restrictive guidelines for sanitizing surfaces, we can once again use the kneelers. While Pennsylvania still has a mask mandate, we are asking everyone to wear a mask coming into and leaving the church. If you are fully vaccinated (2 weeks past your second shot), you may remove your mask in your pew. We ask that you continue to follow the guidelines for Holy Communion. We are following the metrics for Schuylkill County. When we fall into the green (we are very close,) we will resume the regular order of service and begin singing. Ushers and greeters are once again being scheduled

for July. Later in the summer the Worship Committee is planning a special worship service with a hymn singing to welcome back our ability to sing. Look for more details to come.

**Attendance for June 6, 2021** 43 physically present; 180 livestream views; 2 shares

**Sponsoring bulletins and flowers** is a great way to honor a special event in your loved ones' lives or to remember a loved one who has died. (Please only two vases of flowers per week.) If flowers are not sponsored, this is an added cost to the church. Many dates are available in 2021. **Weekly mailings may also be sponsored.**

Calling all children age 2 to those completing grade 6 to join Beacon the puffin and Lighthouse Keeper at *Adventure Island TONIGHT!* from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. VBS will be held in the pavilion Sunday through Thursday this week. Mandated social guidelines will be followed. Thank you to the VBS teachers and staff for their awesome energy and dedication to VBS this week!

This Sunday, June 13th is the last Sunday to bring items for Servants to All, the homeless shelter in Pottsville. The Social Ministry is collecting paper products including paper or foam plates, cups and bowls, plastic utensils, paper towels, zip lock bags, and trash bags. Thank you for your generosity.

In order that we are able to produce a list of people who were in the church during a certain service, if we are requested to produce one, please remember to sign in upon entering the church prior to a service. Thank you.

**Card shower:** Thelma Brensinger will be 92 on June 21. Please send cards to: Thelma Brensinger, 352 W. Deer View Drive, Auburn, PA 17922.

**Articles for July and August newsletter** are due in the office by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Linda

Marna Gilbert passed away Monday, June 7, 2021. Her funeral arrangements were incomplete at the time of printing. Please keep her family in your prayers as they mourn.

**STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR ONLINE GIVING/MAIL-IN/DROPPED OFF FOR LAST WEEK**

Synod/ELCA Benevolence	\$122.50
Local Benevolence	\$234.00
Current	\$1938.52
Building	\$25.00
Plate	\$6.00
Initial	\$3.00
Soup Kitchen	\$83.00
<b><u>Total Received</u></b>	<b>\$2412.02</b>

QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING





## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

Mon: Psalm 52; Ezekiel 31:1-12; Galatians 6:11-18

Tues: Psalm 52; Jeremiah 21:11-14; Revelation 21:22—22:5

Wed: Psalm 52; Jeremiah 22:1-9; Luke 6:43-45

Thu: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Job 29:1-20; Acts 20:1-16

Fri: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Job 29:21—30:15; Acts 21:1-16

Sat: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; Job 37:1-13; Luke 21:25-28

## **THE WEEK of JUNE 6th at a GLANCE**

**Sunday:** 9 am Worship Service

6:30 pm VBS

**Monday:** 10 am Prayer Shawl Group

6:30 pm VBS

**Tuesday:** 6:30 pm VBS

**Wednesday:** 6:30 pm VBS

**Thursday:** 7 pm Bible Study by Zoom

6:30 pm VBS

**Saturday:** 5 pm Worship Service

**Next Sunday:** 9 am Worship Service

**Keep in your prayers:** Richard Paxson, Dennis Ryan, Ron Boris, Jr., Gary & Shirley Krammes, Irene Peiffer, Arlene Lickman, Betty Freeman, Thelma Brensinger, Chester Johnson, Shirley Fessler, Barbara Pennypacker, Angie Lewis, Mark Fidler, Hayley Moyer, Helen Runkle, Eleanor Jamison, Adam Brink, Glenn & Linda Curtis, Arlene Moyer, Charles Wernert, Stephen Curtis, Brayden Crews, John Strauch, Jr., Dianna Curry, Fern Staller, Pat Stevens, Lawrence Latsko, Rosemary Meade, Tyler Boland, Ray Yeich, David Axtt, Greg Phillips, Gaylene Ebling, Connie Klinger, Stacey Rao, Betty Strauch and John Strauch, Sr., Helen Miller, Nancy Vargas, Jerry Heffleger, and Robert & Joyce Zeledonis. Those serving in the military: Brandon Felty, Karen Hall, Tom Leganza, Tyler Weller, Edward Hossler, Nick Lentz, Jake Schaeffer, Scott Aungst, Tyler Wolfe, Michael Hamilton, Kristian Svenson, Mark Weinus, Jr., Justin Weller, Jeremy Weaver, Cameron Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, and Brad Renninger

# God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!