

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

I am delighted to have spoken with or met some of you since my arrival June 1st. I look forward to getting to know you and you to know me better.

While it is wonderful to worship in-person together, we are to follow the following public health guidelines.

- ✓ Masks are required indoors unless medically exempt
- ✓ Worshippers are encouraged to be double vaccinated when possible for the protection of others, particularly children who are too young to be vaccinated
- ✓ Social distancing of at least six feet must be kept at all times between members of different households
- ✓ Sign in sheet for Saint James will be on the left with Hope Fellowship's sign in sheet on the right
- ✓ Service Bulletins, including liturgy, hymn lyrics and prayers will be printed and available on a table at the back of the sanctuary and beside the lift entrance to the sanctuary.
- ✓ Offering plates will also be available on those tables
- ✓ For the safety and well-being of others, please stay home if you are feeling unwell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During this interim time, we look forward to reconnecting with each other. Watch for small social gatherings to share your thoughts and stories with your neighbours, or in a ministry team or interest group. These get-togethers are planned for September and October but will depend on health restrictions.

Are you interested in praying for others? St. James has been invited to join in prayer with another Lutheran congregation Monday evenings from 7:00-7:45 pm in a private online meeting room. Please let Pastor Julianne know if you are interested in more information.

Confirmation has been tentatively planned with Pastor Hans for Reformation Sunday, Oct 31, 2021, but will depend on health restrictions at that time.

Please help Pastor Julianne get to know your talents, interests and gifts, by calling or emailing her. She continues to seek people in the congregation who are willing to share musical gifts, or a willingness to read or lead prayers during services.

New this fall! Plans are underway for a drop in Bible Study," Dwelling in the Word." No advance reading necessary. Everyone is welcome. Contact Pastor Julianne with any questions you may have.

**The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 12, 2021**

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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.

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 neighbours 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.**

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.**

GATHERING SONG **EvLW # 529** *Jesus, We Are Gathered: Jesu, tawa pano*

ENGLISH

Jesus, we are gathered,
Jesus, we are gathered,
Jesus, we are gathered,
we are gathered, Lord Jesus, for you.

ORIGINAL

Jesu, tawa pano,
Jesu, tawa pano,
Jesu, tawa pano,
tawa pano mu zita renyu.

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

Let us pray. 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.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

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 wakens - wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 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.

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; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 116: 1-9

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

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

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

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

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

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

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

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING

James 3: 1-12

A reading from James.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 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. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 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. 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! 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. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue - a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can 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. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-38

The holy gospel according to Mark. **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.

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

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. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 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."

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. 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. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 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.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 838 *Beautiful Saviour*

1. Beautiful Saviour, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,
bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Saviour, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honour, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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 especially those affected by Hurricane Ida. 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 speak out 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 honour you. Support us as we move into what seems to be a new beginning, speaking words which encourage one another and give you glory. 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 trust in your healing and care, especially Beryl, Carol, Daryl, Elethia, Ferolyn, Hans, Jordon, Pat, and those we name quietly in our hearts. 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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG EvLW # 538 *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth: Enviado soy de Dios*

ENGLISH

The Lord now sends us forth
with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth
a better place to live. Repeat

The angels are not sent
into our world of pain
to do what we were meant
to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me
and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray,
to do your will today. Repeat

SPANISH

Enviado soy de Dios,
mi mano lista esta
para construir con el
un mundo fraternal. Repitalo

Los angeles no son
enviados a cambiar
un mundo de dolor
por un mundo mejor;
me ha tocado a mi
hacerlo realidad.
Ayudame, Senor,
a hacer tu voluntad. Repitalo

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Sept 13	1 Kings 13:1-10	Romans 3:9-20	Psalm 119:169-176
Tue	Sept 14	1 Kings 13:11-25	Colossians 3:1-11	Psalm 119:169-176
Wed	Sept 15	Isaiah 10:12-20	John 7:25-36	Psalm 119:169-176
Thu	Sept 16	Judges 6:1-10 1	Corinthians 2:1-5	Psalm 54
Fri	Sept 17	1 Kings 22:24-40	Romans 11:25-32	Psalm 54
Sat	Sept 18	2 Kings 17:5-18	Matthew 23:29-39	Psalm 54
Sun	Sept 19	Jeremiah 11:18-20 or Wisdom 1:16 - 2:1, 12-22 James 3:13 — 4:3, 7-8a Mark 9:30-37		Psalm 54 (4) .

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