

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

*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.*

**GATHERING**

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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

**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.**

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.  
**Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**  
#798  
2)

*“Will You Come and Follow Me”* ELW  
(Vs. 1 &

**\*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.**

**WORD**

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

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, 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.*

<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>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;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God. Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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! <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, <sup>8</sup>but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup>With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. <sup>10</sup>From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. <sup>11</sup>Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? <sup>12</sup>Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”* ELW

page#172

The holy gospel according to the eighth chapter of Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL—Mark 8:27-38**

*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.*

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

<sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>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."

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

**MESSAGE**

*"How Do You Say I Am?"*

Rev. Bob Broeder

**\*THE 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**

**\*THE PRAYERS**

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

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 the victims of Hurricane Ida and those enduring the earthquake in Haiti. 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. We pray today for Darlene Krueger, Clyde Keech, Allan Krattley, Sophia Walker, Pr. Dave Aaker, Fred Wentzlaff, Charlie Schleeve, Phyllis Kiemele, and those that we name silently in our hearts.... *A brief silence...* grant them your healing and strength. 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 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 honor you and encourage one another. 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 give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Today we pray for Marni Dunning & her family in the recent death of her father, Robert Van Den Einde, give them comfort and strength.  
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.**

**OFFERING**

*Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**OFFERING**

*Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray:

**God of abundance,  
you cause streams to break forth in the desert  
and manna to rain from the heavens.  
Accept the gifts you have first given us.  
Unite them with the offering of our lives  
to nourish the world you love so dearly;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

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

**SENDING**

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

**\*BLESSING**

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.

**Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*"The Lord Now Sends Us Forth"* ELW

#538

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**\*POSTLUDE**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103321—4/30/2022

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress.

All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103321—4/30/2022

One License—#A-716694

All rights reserved

One License—#A-716694

All rights reserved

CCLI—ccli.com

Copyright License #2540397—Expires 7/31/2022

Streaming License #20643840—Expires 6/30/2022

Songselect Basic—Expires 7/31/2022

CCLI—ccli.com

Copyright License #2540397—Expires 7/31/2022

Streaming License #20643840—Expires 6/30/2022

Songselect Basic—Expires 7/31/2022

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship services can be viewed through our website [www.firstlutheranlesueur.org](http://www.firstlutheranlesueur.org) or through You Tube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search First Lutheran Church Le Sueur MN.

*Christ In Our Home* devotional and *Living Lutheran* magazine are available at church. Please call and a copy can be mailed out to you.

Your offering to the church can be mail, dropped in the mailbox outside of church or through an upcoming link on our website.

Please call or email the church if you have pastoral care needs.

**God's Work Our Hands** is today. Stay after the service to use your hands to help others and then enjoy a meal starting at 11:30.

Just a reminder...please stay home if you are sick or not feeling well. If you do attend a worship service and you are later diagnosed with COVID-19, *please contact the church office as soon as possible*. Your name will be kept confidential, but we need to notify those who came in contact with you.

First Lutheran Church

116 Inner Drive  
Le Sueur, MN 56058  
507-665-2615

[office@firstlutheranlesueur.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranlesueur.org)  
[www.firstlutheranlesueur.org](http://www.firstlutheranlesueur.org)

UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another  
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

First Lutheran Church  
116 Inner Drive  
Le Sueur, MN 56058  
507-665-2615

[office@firstlutheranlesueur.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranlesueur.org)  
[www.firstlutheranlesueur.org](http://www.firstlutheranlesueur.org)

UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another  
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

