

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 12, 2021**



*Elegy for the Innocents.*

*J. F. Robertson*

*9.11.2001*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME** into this sanctuary, this place made holy by God's presence. We welcome you, the triune God welcomes you as we gather on this 16th Sunday after Pentecost at the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Let us gather to attest to our faith in the power of God's love in the world despite all adversity.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*HYMN ~ *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

LBW # 526

## Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 526

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, In  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, Nor  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small; In  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light; Thine

light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, Most  
 want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; Thy  
 all life thou liv - est, the true life of all; We  
 an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; All

bles - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, Al -  
 jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove Thy  
 blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree, And  
 laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see 'Tis

might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

**\*CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

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

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage 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**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C **Amen**

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**

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

**\*HYMN of PRAISE**

**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



**B** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

**\*PRAYER of the DAY** ~ *(in unison)*

P The Lord be with you.                      C And al - so with you.

P 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.

**LESSONS**

First Lesson ~ A reading from Isaiah 50:4-9

*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-9~ *with response*

*The psalm is announced, organ plays response 1x, cantor or pastor sings 1x, people join to sing response, then as psalm is read, congregation sings response at each R.*

Second Lesson ~ A reading from James 3:1-12

*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*The Gospel is read. After the reading*

John 3:13-17

3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

3:17 Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

*After the reading*

P The Gospel of the Lord

A musical staff in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), E5 (quarter), F5 (quarter), G5 (quarter). The lyrics "Praise to you, O Christ." are written below the staff, with "Praise" under the first measure, "to you," under the second measure, "O" under the third measure, and "Christ." under the fourth measure.

**MESSAGE** ~ *"A Perspective from the Eye of the Storm"*



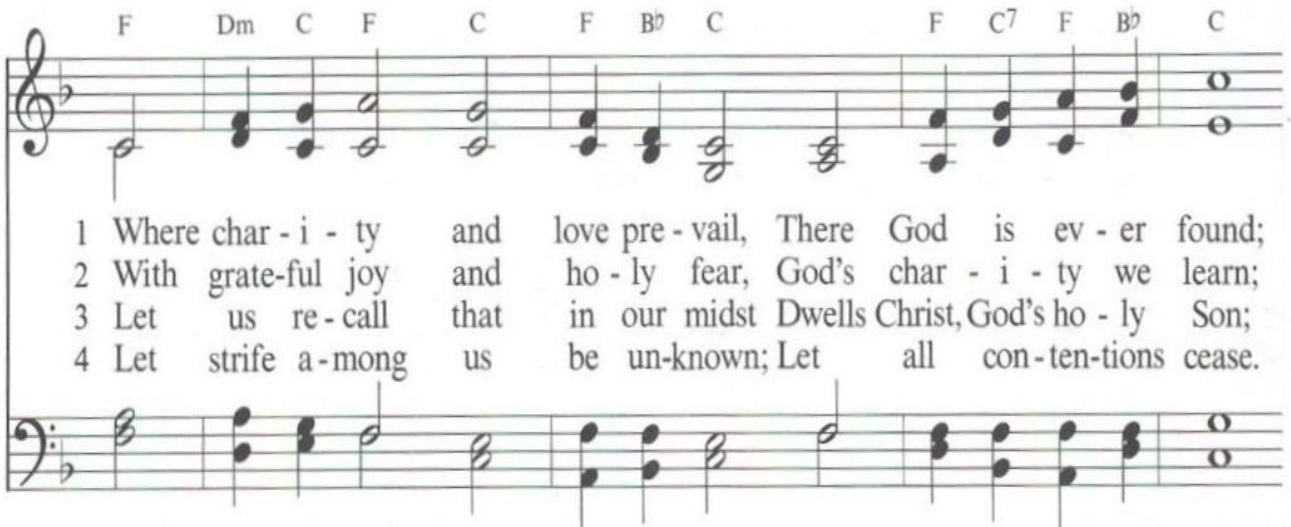
HYMN ~ *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

LBW 126

## Where Charity and Love Prevail

126

F Dm C F C F B<sup>b</sup> C F C<sup>7</sup> F B<sup>b</sup> C



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, There God is ev - er found;  
 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst Dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; Let all con - ten-tions cease.

F Gm<sup>7</sup> C Dm C F B<sup>b</sup> C Dm B<sup>b</sup>6 F C F



Brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, By love we thus are bound.  
 Let us with heart and mind and soul Now love God in re - turn.  
 As mem - bers of each bod - y joined, In him we are made one.  
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; Be his our on - ly peace.

5 For love excludes no race or clan  
 That names the Savior's name;  
 His family embraces all  
 Whose Father is the same.

6 We now forgive each other's faults  
 As we our own confess,  
 That we may love each other well  
 In Christian gentleness.

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

**OFFERING** ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end of the front and back pews on your way out.

**\*OFFERTORY**


Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**\*PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ See Celebrate**

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

*A brief silence.*

Prayer for 9/11 commemoration

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

**\*THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

**\*HYMN ~ O Christ, Our Hope**

LBW # 300

JUSTIFICATION

300

O Christ, Our Hope

1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, Cre - a - tion's  
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept The bur - den  
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, The ran - som  
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail To purge us

might-y Lord, Re - deem - er of the fall - en world, By  
 of our sin, And bow your head in cru - el death To  
 has been paid; You now as - cend the Fa - ther's throne In  
 of our pride, That we may stand be - fore your throne By

ho - ly love out - poured, By ho - ly love out - poured:  
 make us clean with - in, To make us clean with - in.  
 robes of light ar - rayed, In robes of light ar - rayed.  
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, By mer - cy pu - ri - fied.

5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,  
 Our future great reward;  
 Our only glory, may it be  
 To glory in the Lord!

6 All praise to you, ascended Lord;  
 All glory ever be  
 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost  
 Through all eternity!

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

**R** Thanks be to God

**POSTLUDE**

**Questions for Reflection**

When we hear Jesus say we are to “deny” ourselves, this can seem strangely harsh language, and it is well that each of us knows what it means in our own lives. You are made in God’s image. As an image of the divine, God does not command you to be nothing. You are not to be denigrated. What aspects of your life, your desires, your tendencies, do you recognize as impeding your ability to set your mind on what you truly want and need? What is your cross? Perhaps you see more than one cross you must bear. If you “take up” your cross (or crosses), how might you live differently than you do now?

**Household Prayer: Morning**

Household Prayer: Morning Thank you, God, for this good night and day, for time to sleep and wake, for dark and light, for silence and noise, for stillness and movement, for my body, mind, and heart. Give me the strength today to bear my cross with patience so that whoever I meet will find a moment of calm in my presence because of you. I pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Household Prayer: Evening**

Household Prayer: Evening Thank you, God, for this good day and now for night, for all that has transpired in the last hours, for the food I have been given, for the work I have had to do, for the exercise, for breathing, for what my ears have heard, for friends, for coworkers, and for what I have seen growing in the soil and shining in the sunlight. Guard me now as I sleep and give me good rest for the sake of the tasks you have set before me tomorrow. I pray for your peace, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

**Organist:** Seulki Susie Yoo

**Church Office:** 935-2032 Email us at [secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)

**St. John's Christian Day Care:** 935-2959

**Today**

**Greeter:** Bob and Susan Keller; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

**Next Sunday, September 19**

**Greeter:** VOLUNTEER NEEDED; **Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan

***Our Mission Statement***

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another in our homes, church, community and the world.*

***Our Vision Statement***

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Reba Harmon in loving memory of Jim Harmon.

**FROM the PASTOR**

This Thursday, Sept 16 9:30AM Sharon Wilson of the Evangelical Lutheran church Reedsville quilters and perhaps another member of their group will meet with our Knotters group to share with each other about our processes, quilts and mission outreach. A great opportunity for fellowship and to see what is happening at our sister church at the other end of the valley.

Health and Safety: As cases of Covid have shown up recently in the church, social distancing and wearing masks inside and while singing again present a choice you may want to make to protect yourself and others.

**Gathering for Congregation Leaders** from Mifflin County **with Bishop Collins** is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 12 6:30 PM** at Evangelical Lutheran in Reedsville.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our Council and other church leaders and leaders of other churches to have a time of sharing and prayer with the Bishop. Let Pastor Ela know if you are interested in participating.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The September/October service schedule to help with Sunday morning duties can be found in the narthex. **Still needed this month is a greeter for next Sunday and a lay reader for September 26.**

**St. John's has Meals on Wheels this week, still needed are ~**  
two 9x12 pans of Apple Crisp for this Tuesday, two Pound Cakes for next  
Tuesday, September 21 (*Make your own, or purchase ready made from grocery  
store*)and donations to purchase pies, (*please give to Sue Lynch or drop off at the  
church office.*)

**Please be sure to have your dessert at the community Hall by 9am the day it is  
needed. Thank you!**

January 1 thru September 9, 2021

Last week's attendance ~ 19    Offering ~ \$ 1,805.00

St. John's ~ Income \$ 111,930.36    Expense \$ 109,731.84  
Net Income \$ 2,198.52

Daycare ~ Income \$ 215,021.84    Expense \$ 198,047.23  
Net Income \$ 16,974.61



### COVID-19 Visitation Update

August 23, 2021

Given the spread of the coronavirus Delta variant and the rise of cases in counties within the state, Valley View is taking a proactive approach to keeping your loved one safe and is now **requiring masking for all visitation while indoors regardless of vaccination status.**

#### **Vaccinated Resident AND Visitor**

- The resident and their visitor(s) can choose to have close contact (including touching).
- The resident and their visitor(s) are not required to be masked if visiting outside.

#### **Unvaccinated Visitor**

- Visitors should wear a mask at all times while visiting a resident and while on the Valley View campus.

We continue to appreciate your patience, understanding, and active participation in keeping Valley View residents safe.

Thank you,

Valley View Administration