

May 21, 2023  
Seventh Sunday of  
Easter

Mt. Calvary, Upper Northfield  
St. John's, Mahone Bay

Prepared By Pastor Brooklynn Lane

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# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

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**Sunday, May 21, 2023**

**Service of the Word**

## **GATHERING**

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

## **CALL TO WORSHIP – (written by Thom Shuman)**

From comfortable pews,  
from tricycle seats,  
from easy chairs in front of TVs:

**God gathers us in  
to give us the words  
to proclaim the gospel.**

At kitchen sinks,  
at laptops and blackboards,  
at nursing stations:

**Christ calls us to share  
in serving all creation.**

In communities gathered to pray,  
in memories of those who served,  
in families grilling in the backyard:

**The Holy Spirit fills us  
with God joy.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,

holy and merciful,

holy and mighty,

you are the river of life,

you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.**

**Empower our witness to your resurrection.**

**Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.

Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.

Where despair prevails, grant hope.

Where chaos reigns, bring peace.

We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus - Evangelical Lutheran Worship # 392

Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3qhtw1XoU0>

## **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.**

**KYRIE – ELW p. 184**

**CANTICAL OF PRAISE – ELW p. 187**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered death as the crowds turned him over and then Jesus ascended to heaven to be with you. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, who lives and loves with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING – Acts 1:6-14 (NRSV)

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God**

## PSALM - Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 (NRSV)

Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;

**let those who hate God flee.**

As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;

**as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;

**let them also be merry and joyful.**

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;

**I Am is that name, rejoice before God!**

In your holy habitation, O God,

**you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;**

you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;

**but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people,

**when you marched through the wilderness,**

the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,

**at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

You sent a bountiful rain, O God;

**you restored your inheritance when it languished.**

Your people found their home in it;

**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;

**sing praises to the Lord.**

You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;

**you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

Ascribe power to God,

**whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.**

How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,

**giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

**SECOND READING – 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 (NRSV)**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL READING – John 17:1-11 (NRSV)**

The holy gospel according to John

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

The gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, You Give the Great Commission - Evangelical Lutheran Worship #579  
Sing Along: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bn\\_YyrfOUPk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bn_YyrfOUPk)

## 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

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of harmony, as you drew your Son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation, especially exiles, refugees, or prisoners. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks that humankind serves as your body in the world, stewarding your abundant gifts. Guide this congregation's leaders as they seek your will. We pray for our staff and council. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You raise your saints to new life in Christ. We give you thanks for all your saints who have given us glimpses of your redeeming love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERATORY PRAYER

Gracious God,  
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.  
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,  
and make us ready to share with all in need;  
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

## **CHARGE & BLESSING**

Go out into the world in peace;  
Have courage;  
Hold onto what is good;  
Return no evil for evil;  
Strengthen the fainthearted;  
Support the weak, and help the suffering;  
Honour all people;  
Love and serve the Lord,  
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

## **SENDING HYMN**

Crown Him with Many Crowns - Evangelical Lutheran Worship #866  
Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnUkFpsZlw4>

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Rejoice, Give thanks!  
**Thanks be to God.**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Walking Group:** Please join Pastor Brooklynn Wednesday mornings at 9:30. Meet at the front of the church for a leisurely walk and fellowship. Coffee break afterwards at the Barn for 10:15 a.m. All are Welcome!

- Join us after church on Sunday, May 21 for **Fellowship Sunday**.

- **Finding God in the Church Parking Lot:**

A Summer Fellowship Series

Join us, from May to September, on the fourth Wednesday of the month (**May 24**), from 6:00-7:00 pm, for an hour of fellowship, a light hotdog supper, and prayer. There will be bubbles, chalk, and other fun games to enjoy. A section of the parking lot will be roped off on Wednesday for this event.

- St. John's will be holding a **Penny Auction** on Saturday June 10 from 10 am – 1 pm. Up for auction will be many new & "like new" items as well as crafts & baked goods.

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