

**16th Sunday After Pentecost  
September 12, 2021**

*Rev. Kelley Pedersen, Interim Pastor*



*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.*

(\*please stand as you are able)

(Congregation reads **bold** print)

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**Welcome, Announcements and \*Invocation**

**\*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.**

**\*Hymn** "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" #808

**\*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, 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.**

### **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.*

4The 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.

5The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

6I 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.

7The 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;  
8he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

9aIt 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 will walk in the presence of the Lord. (Ps. 116:9)*

1I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

**2for the Lord has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

3The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;  
I came to grief and sorrow.

**4Then I called upon the name of the Lord:  
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”**

5Gracious is the Lord and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.

**6The Lord watches over the innocent;  
I was brought low, and God saved me.**

7Turn again to your rest, O my soul.  
for the Lord has dealt well with you.

**8For you have rescued my life from death,  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

9I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

### **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.*

1Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2For 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. 3If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4Or 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. 5So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6And 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. 7For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12Can 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 --** p. 102

\*The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th Chapter. **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.*

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

31Then 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. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But 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."

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

**Hymn of the Day** "Will You Come and Follow Me" #798

**Apostles' Creed** p. 105

**Prayers of Intercession**

**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 (recent destructive events may be named here). 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 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 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace (especially). 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**

**Offering and \*Offering Prayer**

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.**

**\*Lord's Prayer** p. 145



**Upcoming Events:**

Sun, Sept 19      **Council meeting** after worship (about 10:15am)  
Sun, Sept 26      **Congregational meeting** after worship to elect Call Committee

We pray for two households--members and friends--this week David & Lisa Brosamle & family and Garrett & Rita Tabke & family.

At Air Guard Tech. School in Biloxi, MI: Blake Morgan

For those battling cancer: Denise Arpino-treatment; Doug Dahlke; Brad Pautsch-- treatment plan pending (Cindy Ploen's brother); Marj Sanderson-hospice; Michelle Stovie (Harry Kloewer's daughter-chemo)

We also pray for Kendall Riedger (broken leg & pending surgery); Amanda Thorson & baby Trice (Liz Wahlberg's sister); Amber Bock; Carla Boggs; Howard Hustedt (Janna Brandt's uncle); Jon Kleemeier (rehab at home); Barb Kunkel; Drake Malm; Logan Malm; Tucker Malm; Kelly Martin; Salina Shaw (Larry Stroman's niece); Paula Roling; Jo Sparr; **Kereen Swanger (recovering from stroke-back in the hospital)**; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

Our sympathy, love and prayers to Becky Butters and family on the death of her mother, "Freddie" Dahmer, on Friday.

**God's Work. Our gifts. Thank you to all who support our ministry!**

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Electronic giving   | \$1,200.00       |
| Mission Support     | \$ 30.00         |
| <u>General Fund</u> | <u>\$ 142.50</u> |
| Total               | \$1,372.50       |

**On Ushers' Table:**

- Children's bulletins
- Lutheran Disaster Response - US Wildfires information, Haiti earthquake relief

++ 7th & 8th Graders -- Confirmation planning is in the works! Please reach out to the office if you know of or have an interested student that we have not reached out to yet. ++

**Birthdays:** 14-John Malm; 15-Alexis Gilbert; 16-Josh Koehler; 17-Carter Ploen,  
Payton Ploen

**Anniversaries:** 17-Josh & Jessi Way

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**YouTube: [Trinity Lutheran Church, Merville IA](#)**

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**My heartfelt thanks to the Lord and all who made our ministry together such a blessing!  
What a privilege I had sharing Word and Sacrament with you for over a decade! Names  
and faces, times and places made God's presence and promises so real to us through all the  
highs and lows.**

**I'm grateful to those who made my last Sunday such a wonderful celebration--kids and  
faithful leaders, 5+ great voices on "God's Power Will Pull Us Through"; Ruth for the long  
"Peace" piece and pics; Jill for the slideshow and photo book; Rebecca, council and the  
congregation for the altar flowers , the perfect view from the parsonage, the guest book,  
kitchen helpers and hosts; Jan for her gorgeous yummy cakes, and all who shared worship,  
fellowship, prayers, generous greetings and gifts.**

**What teamwork ALL the packing, loading and unloading help showed--in long "shifts" for  
so many real *movers* who literally lightened the load and brightened the days of transition.  
Well done! Phew!**

**Thank you for the ways you showed faith, hope and love. I treasure the memories as I pray  
for you all. I trust and rejoice in God's continued faithfulness to you in God's care.**

**Grace and peace,**

**Pastor Barb**

## Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

*Refrain*



*Kwa - ke* *Ye - su* *na - si - ma - ma,* *ndi - ye*  
Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand. He's the



*mwam - ba ni* *sa - la - ma.* *Ndi - ye* *mwam - ba ni* *sa - la -*  
sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my



*ma,* *ndi - ye* *mwam - ba ni* *sa - la - ma.*  
life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.



1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the  
2 It is not the work of my hands that has  
3 When my days on this earth are done, and I



storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the  
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my  
stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y



*Refrain*

flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.  
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.  
fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966

Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA, Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer

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English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGM/ask

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