

St. John Lutheran Church

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

MATTHEW 16:15



Cover: *Who Do You Say That I Am?* by Lauren Wright Pittman. Copyright © Lauren Wright Pittman. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist. www.lewpstudio.com

Scripture quotations from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org. Tracks 1 and 2

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

20260823-LEC21 ITEM014770 ELCA-K

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • AUGUST 23, 2026

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

- D. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- D. 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.**
- D. Most merciful God,
- C. **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 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.**
- D. God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- C. **Amen**

Gathering Hymn: Give Me Jesus (#770)

Greeting

- D. 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 p. 147

- D. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- D. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- D. 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 mercy.**
- D. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- D. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 149

- D. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.
- D. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

- ¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug.
- ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.
- ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.
- ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples.
- ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.
- ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 138

Response: "O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever."

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

³ When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth. R**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. R**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function,

⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children's Sermon

Anthem

Apostles' 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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation (local areas of ecological concern may be named). Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster (especially). Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day (especially).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Thanksgiving for the Word p. 220

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 Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Sending Hymn: We Are All One In Mission (#576)

Dismissal

Postlude

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	10:00 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service (Summer)
	After Worship Service	Coffee Hour continues through the summer
	After Worship Service	Summer Sundays (casual youth activities) thru Sept. 6th
	11:30 am	Band Rehearsal
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection
		Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
Tuesday, September 1st	7:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parish House
Thursday, September 10th	7:00 pm	Choir rehearsal resumes
Friday, September 11th	6:00 pm	Putting with the Pastor at Big Swing (rain date 9/25)
Saturday, September 12th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building
Sunday, September 13th	9:30 am	Regular Sunday Worship Service begins
Sunday, September 13th	10:45 am	Sunday School Rally Day
Sunday, September 13th	12:00 pm	Visit to Edelman Planetarium at Rowan University
Monday, September 14th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Wednesday, September 16th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Saturday, September 19th	1:00 pm	St. John's 25th Annual Golf Outing
Sunday, September 20th	After Worship	God's Work, Our Hands

Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Frank Donovan	Makenzie Jack	Sue Murphy	Meilani Showell
Krystal Booras	Marie Lentine Douglas	Quincy Jones	Bill Murray	Frank Siderio III
Michael Botti	Tracey Drew	Ed Kagen	Renate Murray	Bill Steel
Brian Byrnes	Indie Fisher	Tracey Kelly	Erica Polito	Carol Taylor
Meadow Cantoral	Stephanie Friant	Carl Knopp	Samantha Reed	Henry Tesone
Randy Cantoral	Rhea Fryor	Deb Kuhn	Kimberly Rickert	Bill Todt
Debbie Capasso	Ashley Fuhrman	Donna Leek	Ashley Rosser	George Vaneman, Sr.
Janet Cappuccio	Angela Guedes	Doug Levandowski	Dorcas Schellhas	George Van Wagner
Joe Condoli	Stan Harmer	Tim McCarthy	Jean Schlotz	Beverly Warming
Sandra DeRitis	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Joanne McVelli	Finn Schureman	Mary White
Helen Dominic	Valerie Hoffmann	Melanie Miles	Gladys Sheppard	Bob Zielsdorf

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please leave payment in the Church Office.



GOOD NEWS!

COFFEE HOUR

Sunday after the Worship Service
(unless otherwise announced)

Join us for food, beverages and fellowship!



BIBLE STUDY in the Parish House
 Tuesday, September 1st
 at 7:00 pm
 Please join us!



CHOIR REHEARSAL
 Resumes on Thursday
 September 10th at 7:00 pm!
 All are welcome to join!

PUTTING WITH THE PASTOR
 at Big Swing in Washington Township
 September 11th • 6 PM (rain date 9/25)




NOTHING BRINGS PEOPLE
Together
 LIKE GOOD FOOD

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON
 Saturday, September 12th
 at 11:30 in the Ed. Building.
 All are welcome!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
SUNDAY SCHOOL
RALLY DAY WILL BE
ON SEPTEMBER 13TH



Photo courtesy of Rowan University

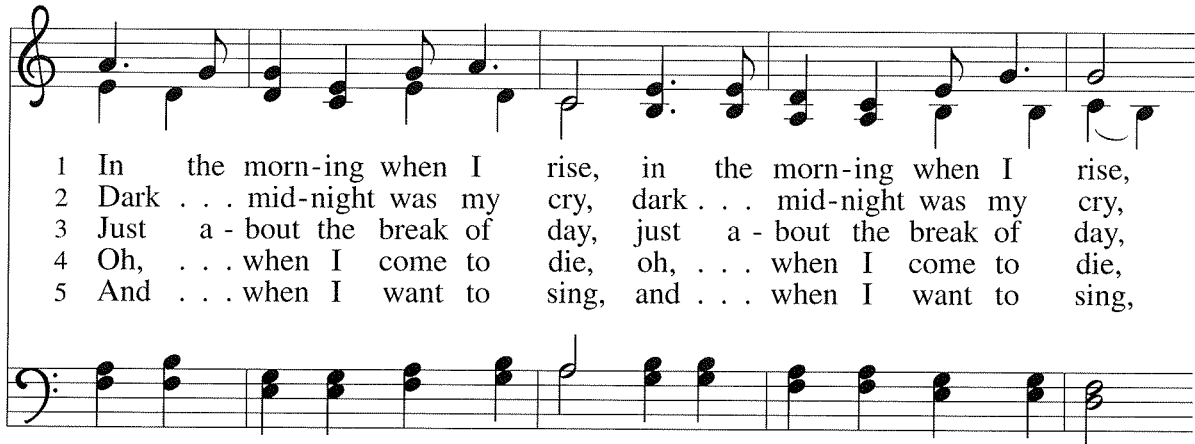
On Sunday, Sept. 13 @ 12 pm
St. John's Church will visit the Edelman Planetarium
 at Rowan University

Worlds Beyond Earth (grade 6 to adult)
 Cost: \$10 per person
 Sign up by August 16 (registration sheet in the narthex)
 Pay by August 30 (see Andrea)

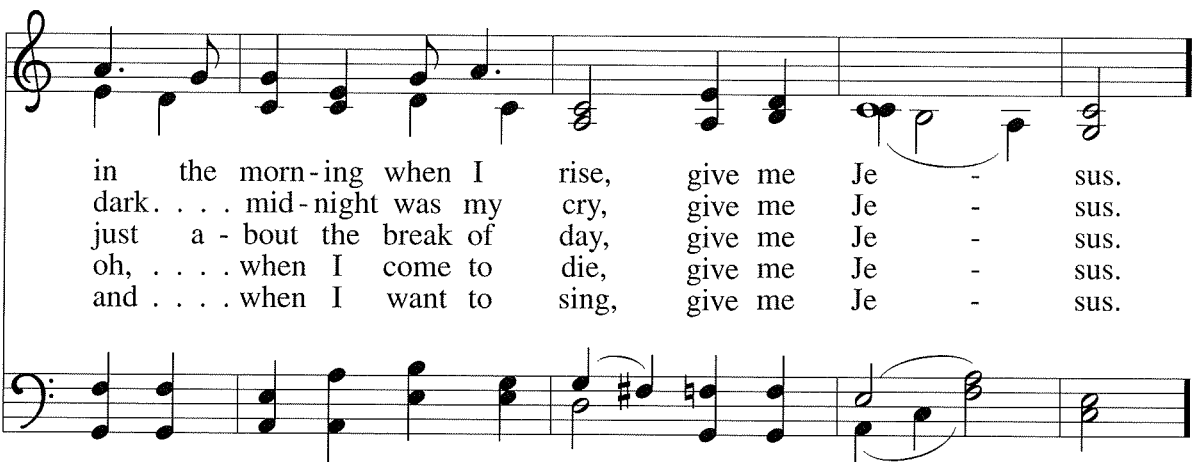
"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." — Genesis 1:1

Give Me Jesus

770



1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

We All Are One in Mission

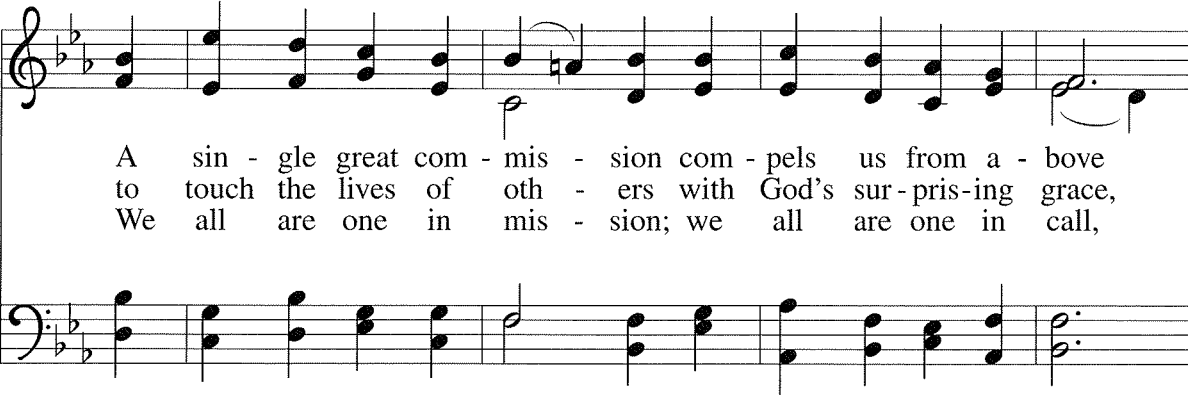
576



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

GRIEF GATHERING



**Wednesday,
September 16th**

**7:00 pm
Parish House Tea Room**

All Are Welcome!



ST. JOHN'S 25TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, September 19th • White Oaks Country Club

Proceeds to Benefit John's Monthly Community Outreach Luncheons

For more information, please contact Joe Antonelli at
609-579-4207 or email to 33miracle@comcast.net

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

September 20, 2026



Holy Communion Lutheran Church of Berlin Baby Pantry need:



BABY DIAPERS
(especially larger sizes)

Collection is in the Narthex.



Please help us . . .

**Donate Shelf Stable Milk for
Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.**

Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094

Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer

Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: stjohslutheran1002@yahoo.com

Website: www.stjohnselc1002.org