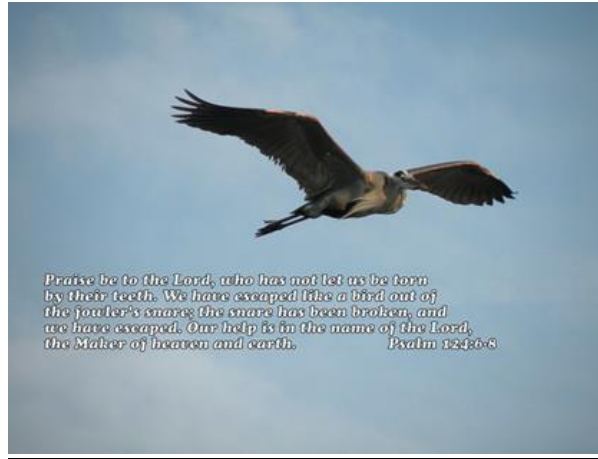


**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 26th 2021**



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**Opening**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**Sentence**

Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth.

*John 17.17*

**Collect**

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings**

ESTHER 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22;

PSALM 124;

JAMES 5:13-20;

MARK 9:38-50

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-09-26&submit=show+new+date>

## Follow me

Today's gospel (Mark 9:38-50) tells a story about John and the other disciples running into a stumbling block, an outsider who, as John tells Jesus, "**Was not following us.**"

I don't know what that meant for John and the others but I know that today it often means the other does not look or dress like us, the other does not speak or act like us, the other does not think or believe like us, the other does not do it our way. He or she is not following us. Whatever it was for John and the disciples, they felt threatened by this guy. He was casting out demons, alleviating oppression, offering a new life, all in the name of Jesus. Chances are the guy was getting a name, status, and recognition.

Last week the disciples argued among themselves about who is the greatest (Mark 9:30-37). This week (Mark 9:38-50) they are complaining about this other guy, this stumbling block to their status, power, and recognition.

John, however, wants to make the conversation about this other guy, this stumbling block. "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." Focus in this sentence "**He was not following us.**"

Notice that John does not say, "**He was not following you** (Jesus)," but "He was following us." Jesus never says, "Follow us" - meaning "Follow me and my disciples." He often says, "Follow me" (1:17; 2:14; 8:34; 10:21). Without any authority, John has included the disciples in the concept of following. In the next chapter, we will look at the level of his ambition (10: 35-45), but here we only see his beginnings.

There is a tone of frustration in John's comment. The disciples tried, apparently unsuccessfully, to stop the man casting out demons. Part of his frustration surely comes from his previous (unsuccessful) attempt to perform an exorcism (9: 14-29). Now, these "certified" disciples, who are still learning from their mistake, cannot stop a "non-certified" but successful exorcist who uses the name of Jesus without his authorization. Surely John is concerned here, not only with protecting the sanctity of Jesus' name, but also with protecting the special status of the disciples. As John imagines, if Jesus commissioned the twelve (6: 7-13), he will expect them to accomplish whatever work is to be done in his name.

The disciples drew a circle that left out the exorcist, but Jesus redraws the circle, including him. He who touched lepers (1:41), ate with tax collectors and sinners (2: 15-16), and took little ones in his arms (9:36) draws a large circle. Soon, the disciples will be reminded of this when they try to prevent children from approaching Jesus (10: 13-16).

In the previous text the discussion was about the relationship of the disciples to each other (who was the greatest) now the issue is directed towards the attitude that the disciples have in relation to others, first those who perform powerful acts in the name of Jesus but they are not with them (vv. 38-41) and then the attitude towards "these little ones". The disciples still do not manage to understand the mystery of the death and resurrection of the Master, Jesus in his walk teaches them with acts and actions that they have to do to be first in the kingdom but they continue to think of a

merely human kingdom, perhaps full of luxuries and riches, of power and fight to against there enemies.

Unlike the scribes and Pharisees, who already plot against Jesus as he begins his journey to Jerusalem, the exorcist is not an enemy.

Today, we need to hear this in a church fragmented on many sides - denomination, doctrine, race, socio-economic level, nation, liberal / conservative, social / evangelical action, and charismatic or non-charismatic, Roman Catholic not Roman Catholic. We are always tempted to think of Christians on the other side of the fence as inferior - if we consider them Christians at all. Perhaps, more to the point, clergymen can be jealous of our prerogatives and thus diminish the role of lay people in areas of ministry normally reserved for clergy. Lay people serving in an official capacity can often feel the same jealousy of our authority. Christ asks us to put aside this petty jealousy and respect the gifts of those who work in his name.

Elsewhere, Jesus asks us to love our enemies and help the helpless, but here he directs his blessing to those who help Christians - those who "are Christ's." The point is that the king's emissary is treated with the same respect that the king deserves - with appropriate reward and punishment for those who render or lack such respect. The gift that Jesus mentions is simple - a glass of cold water - something essential to life but that almost anyone can give. The glass of water symbolizes any practical gift - food, clothing, shelter, financial aid, or pulling someone out of a gutter.

The Gospel today invites us today to follow Christ, to follow his love, and his teaching, with faith.

We cannot for any reason say that we are Christians but we do nothing to help our brothers, we cannot call ourselves children of God and see our brothers suffering and do nothing to help satisfy their needs. God does not pray today that we be the salt of the world, that we give true flavor to life not only ours but that of all those who are looking for that Christ in us who go to church. Today we fear our migrant brothers who need our support that I am willing to do to drive away those demons of misery and need. We are going to look for a "certified" apostle like Juan to tell him to do something and to follow him or we are going to be that salt that Jesus asks us to be and help our brothers to expel the demons that oppress him. ["Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." Mark 9:50](#)

**Prayers of the People Sept. 26, 2021** presented by Anne Gagan

*When we pause in each prayer, please think on what we have prayed.*

Friends, draw near to God, and God will draw near to you. With open and humble hearts, let us pray, saying: **Pause**

**God our help, receive our prayer.**

Give to your Church, O God, wisdom from above. Let us be known as a people of peace, gentleness and mercy. **Pause**

**God our help, receive our prayer.**

Lover of souls, we pray for all women and girls around the world. May those who have been oppressed and ignored walk with strength and dignity. We thank you, O God, for women.

*Please add your own thanksgivings then **Pause**.*

**God our help, receive our prayer.**

O God we pray for this earth, our island home. May we not be anxious about earthly things, but give us hope that you are refreshing the resources that we have exploited and misused. **Pause**

**God our help, receive our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, your son was betrayed, arrested and killed: be with all captives and prisoners. Fill us with your mercy and wisdom. May our lives show forth the way of the righteous? **Pause**

**God our help, receive our prayer.**

Holy God, we ask you to strengthen and heal our ailing loved ones. Bring forth in them good fruit and prosper all that they do in Jesus' name.

*Please add your own concerns then **Pause**.*

**God our help, receive our prayer.**

Lord, we pray for all those who have died, We thank you for those who have shown us faith and wisdom. May we, following the example of our forebears, hold fast to those things that shall endure. **Pause**

**God our help, receive our prayer.**

These are our prayers. Receive them in your mercy. And grant us, O Lord, your peace---your peace that passes our human understanding. **AMEN.**

We pray for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia. AD Rick Jones, Rev. Enrique Martinez, Rev. Jack Cox

For the week beginning Sunday 26 September 2021, we will be praying for the **Rev. Canon Tony Bouwmeester** (interim) and the people of **St. Paul's, Port Dover.**

Remembering our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes.

June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, John, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B.

We pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale & David F, Rose G, Julie, Janice S., Barbara S., Carol M., George F., Carol H., and anyone known to you.

It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists, can you please email Anne at [lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com) or Enrique at [enrique6921@gmail.com](mailto:enrique6921@gmail.com)

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them let us know and we will add to the list

### **Prayer of Confession**

Search us O God and know our hearts today  
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,  
see if there are any hurtful ways in us  
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

### **Words of Assurance**

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.  
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others  
Amen

### **Closing Prayer**

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

### **Doxology**

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video**

<https://youtu.be/yCiFyNIU4Lk>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is accepting donations for Haiti earthquake relief – For more information go to:**

**<https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-accepting-donations-for-haiti-earthquake-relief/>**

- September 26 Eucharist Service at St. John's Port Rowan.
- September 29 2021 Fr. Enrique induction Service at St. John's Woodhouse presided over by Ven. Archdeacon Janet Griffith at 3 P.M. COVID-19 restrictions by invitation only, sorry for the inconvenience.



If you have anything you would like to contribute or comment on. Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique and he can include in the newspaper.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in October – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate you and add some facts that happened on that day in history. I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in this special occasion section, please send me details.



## Our Parish of Long Point Bay Projects

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. “Matthew 25:35-36

### Hispanic & Migrant Farmworker Outreach Ministry

The Hispanic & Migrant Farmworker Outreach Ministry in the diocese of Huron is a ministry committed to making our migrant workers visible and supported in our community. Migrant farmworkers are a long way from home and sacrifice family life, support network, and their culture, coming to Canada to work and support their families back home. As Christians we want to welcome, support, include, and make them visible in our Canadian community.

### Day care

The aim of St. John’s Day Care is to introduce the Anglican faith to families in Long Point Bay Parish by providing Child Care to their children while teaching them about biblical histories using children’s books and other materials that can attract children’s interests, puzzles, toys, etc. Also, provide Spanish classes, healthy homemade meals and outdoor activities. Build a bridge between the community and the Anglican Church to encourage families with younger children to acquire knowledge of our Anglican Church.

### Greenhouse

This project aims to benefit those less fortunate to have access to fresh vegetables. Families living in a low income, immigrants just arriving to Canada, people who have been negatively impacted due to COVID-19 (job loss)

Population growth and less availability of food material have become global concerns. The world population increases exponentially whereas food production has increased only arithmetically, meaning that the availability of food per capita has decreased. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom by respond to human need by loving service. God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion the marks of His kingdom. As followers of Jesus, we have a choice: respond to unsettling realities in fear and withdraw, or follow Him in responding to the greatest needs of our day with love and hope.

It is anticipated that funding for these projects will be provided through government grants, support from the diocese of Huron and individual donations. **Donations may be made to the Parish of Long Point Bay.**

I really hope that you will support these outreach projects that put our faith into action.

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So, faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” James 2:14





## CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR!

Do you like to sing? Are you in grades 3-12?

A choir program is starting in **PORT ROWAN!!**

Con Brio Singers will have a variety of opportunities for vocalists of all ages.

Rehearsals will take place at St. John's Anglican on Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00 pm

\*Depending on the number of singers, this may be divided into separate age divisions.

**COST: \$10 for a performance t-shirt (to be worn with plain black pants) and \$20 for music folder (rental)**

**Rehearsals: September 15 - December 22**

**EXPECTATIONS: Attend ALL rehearsals, review music during the week (rehearsal tracks will be sent via email), & participate in two performances in December.**

The choir will continue into the 2022 year with more opportunities to perform and maybe make a recording!

For more information:

Call Gena at 519 586 7833 or

Email: [spiritosomusic1@gmail.com](mailto:spiritosomusic1@gmail.com)

\*Gena (conductor) has her Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, and an Associate Degree from Trinity College in piano performance. She taught music K-8 for 32 years, including 3 years K-12. She has a police check and is fully vaccinated.

\*Kevin (accompanist) has his Bachelor of Music, ARCM, ARCO, and LTCL in piano and organ. He taught music in a private high school in Oakville for 17 years and has 100's of compositions worldwide. He has a police check and is fully vaccinated.





## CONTACT INFORMATION:

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit, please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at [enrique6921@gmail.com](mailto:enrique6921@gmail.com) or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique’s day off will be Fridays

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at [lppparishsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:lppparishsecretary@gmail.com) or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website [parishoflongpointbay.com](http://parishoflongpointbay.com) and Facebook page

## Sing along to this morning’s hymns

### **384 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;  
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:  
All ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,  
Praise him in glad adoration.
2. Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:  
Hast thou not seen how thy entreaties have been  
Granted in what he ordaineth?
3. (omitted)
4. Praise to the Lord, who when tempests their warfare are waging,  
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,  
Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,  
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.
5. (omitted)
6. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen sound from his people again:  
Gladly for aye we adore him.

### 379 – Rejoice, the Lord Is King

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and king adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!
2. Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!
3. His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given,  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!
4. He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,  
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet.  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!
5. Rejoice in glorious hope; Jesus, the judge, shall come  
And take his servants up to their eternal home.  
We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;  
The trump of God shall sound, rejoice!