

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9:37

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church 18th Sunday after Pentecost – September 22, 2024

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning! Know that you are welcome here just as you are.

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:



You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.

As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then prefilled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.

A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

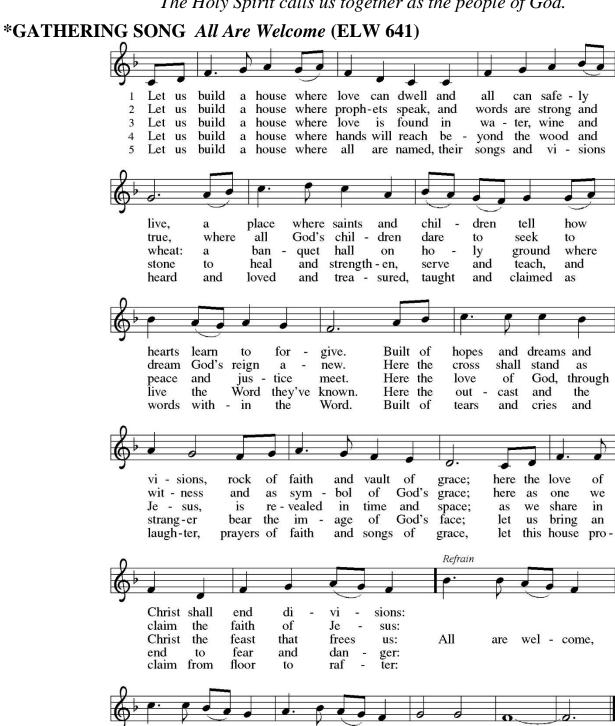
As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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



this

place.

are wel-come,

all

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first

we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

*Canticle of Praise Glory to God





PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMATION PROJECT

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 11:18-20

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying,

"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind,

let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 54

Read responsively – congregation reads bold printed verses

¹Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.

²Hear my prayer, O God;

give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God.

⁴Behold, God | is my helper;

it is the Lord who sustains my life. R

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye looks down on my enemies.

SECOND READING: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

A reading from James.

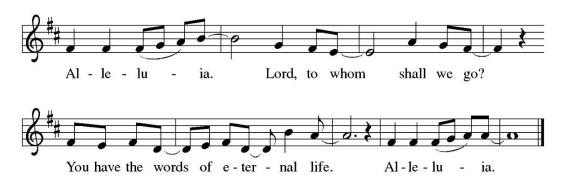
¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:30-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY Children of the Heavenly Father (ELW 781)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)





stjär-nan ej på him-la-fäs-tet, få-geln ej i kän-da näs-tet.
nest-ling bird nor star in heav-en such a ref-uge e'er was giv-en.
From all e-vil things he spares them, in his might-y arms he bears them.
un- to them his grace he show-eth, and their sor-rows all he know-eth.
his the lov-ing pur-pose sole-ly to pre-serve them pure and ho-ly.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Dear Friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for this person, one with us in the body of Christ, making public affirmation of his baptism.

The person making affirmation is presented by a representative of the congregation: I present Luca Julio, who desires to make public affirmation of his baptism.

The presiding minister continues with prayer.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for this child whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism, you have called him to yourself, enlightened him with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished him in the community of faith. Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? *Response: I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? *Response: I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? *Response: I renounce them.*

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

The presiding minister addresses the candidate and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

AFFIRMATION

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support Luca and pray for him in his life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Luca the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with this sibling in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence*.

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, you shape the world with more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer, especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God. We pray for (*blue prayer cards are read*). Receive these and the prayers for which we do not yet have words into your holy keeping in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

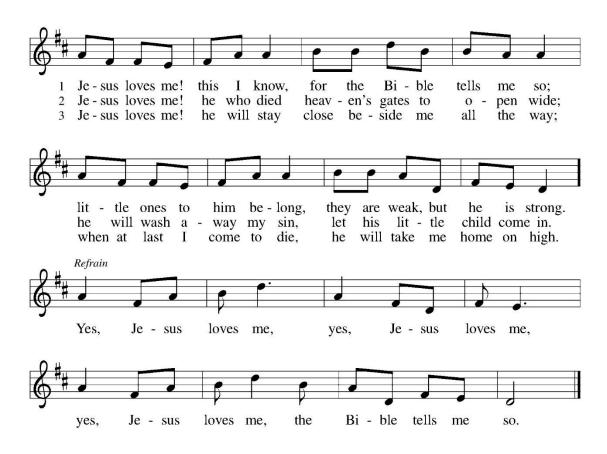
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN Jesus Loves Me! (ELW 595)

Rise on 3rd verse



*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,

source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,

help us to serve one another and all in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

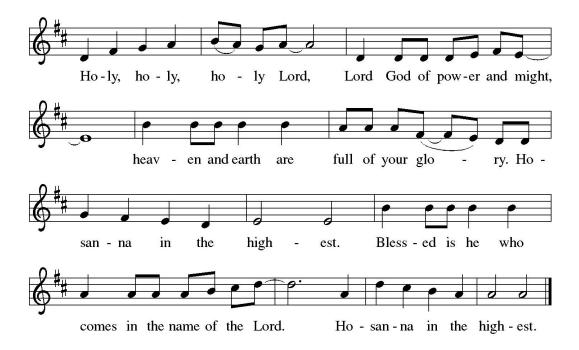
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

Beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

Through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give thanks for your dear Son: At the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,

And gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples,

Saying: take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink

Saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:

In our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,

Through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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,

forever and ever. Amen

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

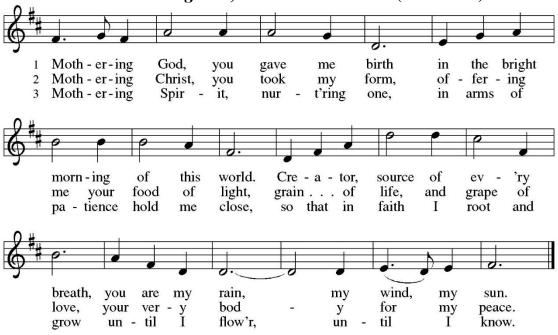
Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth (ELW 735)



COMMUNION HYMN Cradling Children in His Arm (ELW 444)



*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. Amen

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*BLESSING

God all mighty,
God most merciful,
God of grace

→ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)



*DISMISSAL

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'

And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"

Isaiah 6:8

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Valerie C

Acolyte: Anna K

Young Reader: Carissa M

Ushers: Greeters:

Offering: Ava N and Ella N

Attendance last week: 50 + 5 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

Today's Music

All Are Welcome. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc.

Children of the Heavenly Father. Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958, Music: Swedish folk tune. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

Jesus Loves Me! Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt., Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868. Public Domain.

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth. Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342-c. 1413, Music: Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936. Augsburg Fortress.

Cradling Children in His Arm. Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Johannes H. V. Knudsen, 1902–1982, Music: Johann Horn, 1490–1547. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress .

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light. Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934, Music: Kathleen Thomerson. Celebration.

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Next Week's Readings

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 The Lord's spirit comes upon seventy elders Psalm 19:7-14 The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes James 5:13-20 Prayer and anointing in the community Mark 9:38-50 Warnings to those who obstruct faith