



*“And let us consider how to provoke one another
to love and good deeds...”*

Hebrews 10:24

**Mars United Presbyterian and St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Joint Youth-Led Worship Service**

26th Sunday after Pentecost – November 17, 2024

420 Beaver St., PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830

email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Brian Hauser, Preacher

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 worshipping 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 pre-filled 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.*

We are blessed to have our youth lead us in worship this morning. While children and youth always play a vital role in our weekly worship, today they get to participate in more ways than on other Sundays. The Mars Area Youth Group and Kids Club meet every other week and are joint ministries of Mars United Presbyterian Church and St. John Lutheran Church. Regular meetings include games, activities and conversations tackling faith topics in engaging and age-appropriate ways. In addition to regular meetings, participants are invited to engage in extra events and service projects. To learn more about these groups, contact Pastor Brian Hauser (Mars United Presbyterian Church) or Pastor Katie McNeal (St. John Lutheran Church).

In worship we come together from various places and backgrounds and traditions. We come together as a diverse body of individuals united together with people of all places and times in the communion of God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Welcome. We are glad that you are here.

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.

GATHERING SONG *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky (ELW 553)



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Greetings to you in the name of the triune God, the one whose word always accomplishes:
The Shaper of Life, the Savior of Humanity, the Spirit of Renewal.

Amen.

Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives.
And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create conditions for sin.
Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful God,

we want a faith that feels like more than words,

but we lack your power to embody goodness.

We hear your call to serve others yet feel too worn out to make the food.

We hunger to taste justice but fear the burning spice of the meal.

We want our place at your table but resist sitting beside a stranger.

We have lost our appetites for mere thoughts and prayers,

but we fail to match our intentions to our actions.

Forgive us and restore us with the healing wholeness of your presence.

God knows we are imperfect.

But God did not invite us here today for what we have done
or how we have behaved. God loves you.

God always cared much more for you than for your shortcomings.

God forgives you all your sins.

Now repeat after me.

We accept God's forgiveness.

We accept God's forgiveness.

We take our place in God's purpose.

We take our place in God's purpose.

Amen.

*Canticle of Praise *Glory to God*

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray:

Your love has brought us together, and it is your love that sustains us through each day. We pray that you would keep us faithful. Give us the courage to witness to your presence in the world, today, tomorrow, and into the future. We pray in the name of the One who comes, Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Hebrews 10:11-25

A reading from Hebrews.

¹¹ Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³ and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,”

¹⁷ he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹ Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ² Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Children’s Skit

Stone Soup by Susan Srikant

SERMON

By Pastor Brian Hauser

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Canticle of the Turning* (ELW 723) (blue prayer cards are collected)**



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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**

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation. *A brief silence*

O God, in baptismal waters you free us from the power of sin and death. Unite all the baptized in the covenant you have made with us, as we strive for your justice and peace in all the earth. By your merciful might you sustain creation. Stir us from complacency with the harm we inflict on the earth, and urge us to adopt sustainable ways of life that protect and restore our planet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Through the years you have gathered your church and this community for worship, fellowship, formation, and service. Enable us to look beyond the walls of our building to perceive where you are calling us forward. With a selfless power you protect all who take refuge in you. As nations rise against nations, defend all who are displaced or affected by war or violence. Empower all people and nations to pursue peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In your presence you give fullness of joy. Care for all for whom joy feels distant. Be present with persons experiencing depression, anxiety, addiction, or any mental illness. We pray especially for Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we those on our prayer list, and all whom we lift up before you now (*received prayer cards are read*). Bring them healing and wholeness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember the saints who delight in your everlasting presence. As their lives inspire ours, provoke us always to love, holding fast to the confession of our hope in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through 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

Gifts may be designated to either St. John Lutheran Church or Mars United Presbyterian by writing on the envelope (extra envelopes are available in the pews). Offerings that are not designated will be split evenly between the churches to help further the mission and ministry of each congregation.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Goodness is Stronger than Evil* (ELW 721)

sing 3 times through



Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;



light is stron - ger than dark - ness; life is stron - ger than death; vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Together we pray. Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give.
You set the table with plenty of love.

Prepare room in your home
for my neighbor and me.

Prepare a place in your vision
for my neighbor and me.

Prepare a seat at your table
for my neighbor and me.

Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give.
You set the table with plenty of love.

***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.

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.

This is the body of Jesus, the blood of Jesus.

To you, O God, holy three-in-one, one-in-three,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **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

Holy Spirit, you are here now in this food, where you embody forgiveness;
and in these people, whom you have leavened with grace.

People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it;
God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song.

Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

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*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *When Peace Like a River* (ELW 785)



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



Refrain
 It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

COMMUNION HYMN *All My Hope on God is Founded* (ELW 757)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 All my hope on God is founded
 who will all my trust renew,
 who through change and chance will
 guide me, only good and only true.
 God unknown, God alone,
 call my heart to be thine own.</p> | <p>3 Great thy goodness, e'er enduring;
 deep thy wisdom, passing thought;
 splendor, light, and life attend thee,
 beauty springing out of naught.
 Evermore from thy store
 newborn worlds rise and adore.</p> |
| <p>2 Mortal pride and earthly glory,
 sword and crown betray our trust;
 what with care and toil we fashion,
 tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
 But thy pow'r, hour by hour,
 is my temple and my tow'r.</p> | <p>4 Still from earth to God eternal
 sacrifice of praise be done,
 high above all praises praising
 for the gift of God's own Son.
 Christ doth call one and all:
 ye who follow shall not fall.</p> |

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Faithful God,
you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink
in the body and blood of your Son.
Now send us out to labor with you,
in service to the world you have made,
and among the people you have made your home,
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, blesses you.
God our Redeemer, who arrives at just the right time, blesses you.
God our Sustainer, who sparks hope for the hopeless blesses you.
God the Three in One and One in Three blesses you.
God blesses you. Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Soon and Very Soon* (ELW 439)**



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

***DISMISSAL**

People of God, you have already shared
 the arrival of God's goodness.

You carry the blessing of God, God, the First Whisper,
 Jesus, the Living Promise, Spirit, the Speaker of Hearts.

Now go into this world expecting God's justice
 and nurturing God's peace. Christ is with you

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The flowers on the altar today were supplied by Jeff and Deb Martin in celebration of their daughter Jessica's birthday.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Youth Led Worship

Acolyte: Youth Led Worship

Led Worship

Offering: Youth Led Worship

Attendance last week: 58 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

Today's Music

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Sky. Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, Music: J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815. Public Domain.

Canticle of the Turning. Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat, Music: Irish traditional. GIA Publications, Inc. / Public Domain .

Goodness is Stronger than Evil. Text: From An African Prayer Book, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931, Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949. Doubleday / GIA Publications, Inc. .

When Peace Like a River. Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888, Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876. Public Domain.

All My Hope on God is Founded.. Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt., Music: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983. Public Domain / G. Schirmer, Inc..

Soon and Very Soon. Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945, Music: Andraé Crouch. Capitol CMG Publishing.

Liturgy words and music taken from SundaysandSeasons.com Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

More Than Words: Words for Worship © 2024 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission. Adapted by Pastor Katie McNeal. Reprinted under One License # A-724822 and CCLI .

Next Week's Readings

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 *The one coming with the clouds rules over all*
Psalm 93 *Ever since the world began, your throne has been established*
Revelation 1:4b-8 *Glory to the one who made us a kingdom*
John 18:33-37 *The kingdom of Christ*