



*“For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

*~Matthew 22:14*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – October 15, 2023**

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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 visiting us, 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. 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.*

*At the time of **Holy Communion**, all 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.*

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 SONG *Let Us Go Now to the Banquet* (ELW 523)

*Refrain / Estribillo*



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la  
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -  
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to yu - na mi - sión.  
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -  
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -  
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the  
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la  
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm  
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be  
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -

*Refrain / Estribillo*



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.  
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.  
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.  
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us pray: 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.  
**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.  
But if we confess our sins,  
God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,  
**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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace we have been saved.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.  
May almighty God strengthen us through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.  
**Amen.**

Freed and forgiven in Christ, let us sing our praises before God!

# \*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.

**Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

<sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap,  
the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more,  
it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

<sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,  
<sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9**

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

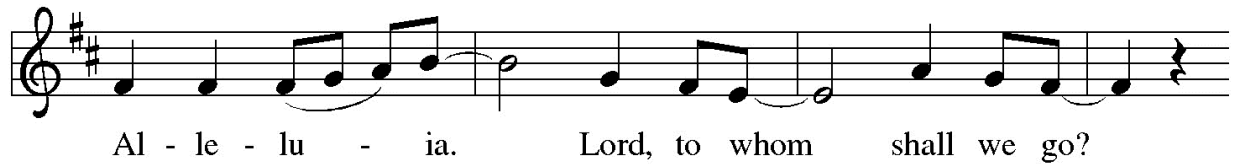
<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**



## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:1-14

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY *Now We Join in Celebration* (ELW 462)**

*(Blue prayer cards are collected)*



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,  
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!  
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;  
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing  
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,  
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,  
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.  
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' n - ly glad - ness.  
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

**\*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**

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

*A brief silence for reflection*

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world, that creation flourishes and that humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. We pray especially for Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy, that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of on the hearts of this congregation today (*blue prayer cards are read*). Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **\*EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

## **OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY HYMN *God Extends an Invitation* (ELW 486)

(sing 3 times, rise on final repeat)



*Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la*  
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



*vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -*  
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



*so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -*  
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



*síes la co - mu - nión; pues a - síes la co - mu - nión.*  
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us and called us your own. In your grace, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our 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, the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,  
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 to explain God's love, to show it and share it,  
 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.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,  
 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
 We remember his life lived for others,  
 and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.  
 We await his coming,  
 when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,  
 all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.  
 Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,  
 that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.  
**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**

Taste and see that the Lord is good, come, for all is now ready.

### **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 are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Those who do not receive the elements of bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.*

### **COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God***

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) over the words 'a-way' and 'mer-cy'. The lyrics are: '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 *Let Us Break Bread Together* (ELW 471)



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.

**Amen**

### **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* (ELW 547)**



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.  
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed  
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.  
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls  
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.  
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us  
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.  
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

**\*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. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



**The flowers on the altar today are from John Tully in honor of the 248<sup>th</sup> birthday of the US Navy and those who serve.**

**Assisting in worship today:**

**Assisting Minister: Denise Hager**

**Acolyte: Nathan K**

**Usher:**

**Greeters: Ruth Ann Tully**

**Offering: Ava N and Ella N**

**Attendance Last Week: 52 + 4 zoom**

**Notes for the day's texts:**

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

**Today's Music**

*Let Us Go Now to the Banquet.* Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955, Misa popular salvadoreña; tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956, Music: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955. GIA Publications, Inc.

*Now We Join in Celebration.* Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990, Music: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662. Estate of Joel W. Lundeen c/o Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

*God Extends an Invitation.* Text: Miria T. Kolling; English and Spanish tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Music: Miria T. Kolling. Augsburg Fortress.

*Let Us Break Bread Together.* Text: African American spiritual, Music: African American spiritual. Public Domain.

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing.* Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt., Music: Welsh folk tune. World Library Publications, a division of GIA Publications, Inc. / Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

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**Next Week's Readings**

Isaiah 45:1-7 *An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will*

Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13] *Ascribe to the Lord honor and power*

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 *Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica*

Matthew 22:15-22 *A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God*