



July 2, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, July 2nd 2023
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A
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WELCOME

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † One God, who greets us in every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Let us trust the love of God and confess our sin, that we might receive grace and find true freedom.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

We have allowed sin and brokenness to permeate in our lives and our relationships. We are consumed with our own schedules and desires that we forget the path only you provide. Rejuvenate our bodies and minds so we may become instruments of your peace and love.

God provides for our weakness. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Hear the good news: in Jesus † Christ you are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies



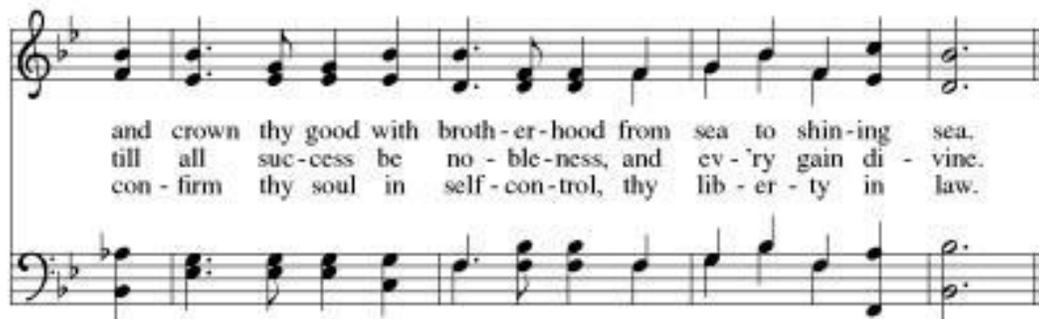
1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years



for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain:
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,



and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea,
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929
Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848-1903

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God,

You direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READING: Genesis 22:1-14

¹God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” ³So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” ⁶Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

⁹When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹²[The angel] said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 13

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
How long shall I have perplexity in my mind, and grief in my heart, day after day? How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
lest my enemy say, “I have defeated you,” and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

I will sing to the LORD, who has dealt with me richly.

READING: Romans 6:12-23

¹²Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

than-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
 gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
 bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
 ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee; how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1896-1989
 Music: O. S. TORRE GLE, Swedish folk. (1904); adapt. Stuart K. Hine
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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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. Responding to "God of grace," with "hear our prayer."

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Christ knows every breath we take: each one is a gift from the Spirit. God watches over, protects, and provides for us. Let us present our offerings of thanksgiving for the goodness of the Triune God.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

Receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service

for the sake of your mission. May all creation be joined together as one in your love. In Christ we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

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, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 God's love.

COMMUNION HYMNS



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



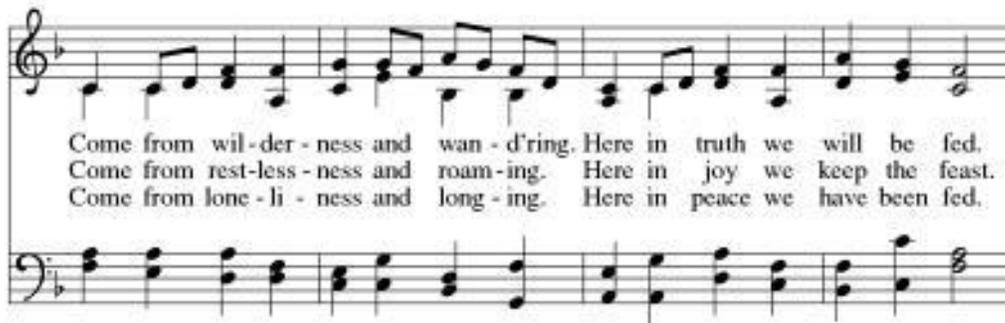
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS CONTINUED

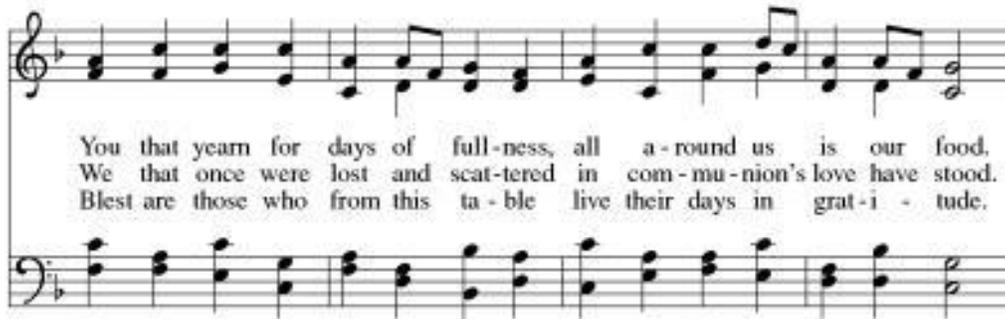
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbia Harmonist*, 1825; arr. hymnal version
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Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God,
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died,
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,

We thank you for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the peace of God reign in this place,

May the love of Christ forever hold you tight,

May the Holy Spirit flow through your life,

And may the joy of the Holy ✝ Trinity uphold you day and night.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
 with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on.
 while God is march - ing on.



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.



Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910
 Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! As our nation prepares to celebrate its independence, we praise God for the freedom to gather for worship. Welcome to all.

Whether my prayer today is “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?” or “My heart shall rejoice in your salvation” (Psalm 13:1, 5, NRSV), you hear me, God. Thank you.

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John’s at (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord’s Supper with us.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

2024 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS

July 16-20, 2024, National Youth Gathering! Registration for this event will take place **Sept. 15–Nov. 1, 2023**. This is for all youth that will be in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (fall 2023). Please let Pastor Maggie know if you are interested so we can start planning and fundraising.

July 16-20, 2024, National Young Adult Youth Gathering! Due to the cancellation of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, this gathering will be open to individuals who will be 18-35 at the time of the event! Registration for this event will take place **Sept. 15–Nov. 1, 2023**. Please let Pastor Maggie know if you are interested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, July 31 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie’s Book Club will be discussing *Peace Like A River* by Leif Enger.

Exciting news! Pictures that were taken for the new church directory are here and can be picked up in the fellowship hall. Pictures are located on the table and in the box. We are also excited to have our new directories soon, stay tuned.

St. John Parking Lot. During the May council meeting, a discussion was had about St. John's Parking lot, as the asphalt needs to be replaced. There are many cracks, crevasses, and areas where the base layer is no longer good and as time goes on would only grow worse. The area to be replaced starts at the corner of the building going out to the road.

A meeting will be held at a later date for the congregation to discuss options.

A discussion is noted in the meeting minutes for May, please contact a council member if you have concerns.

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children’s sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John July 2– July 9

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship

July 9

9:00 a.m. Worship