



August 6, 2023
9:00 a.m.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, August 6th 2023
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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 confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of compassion,

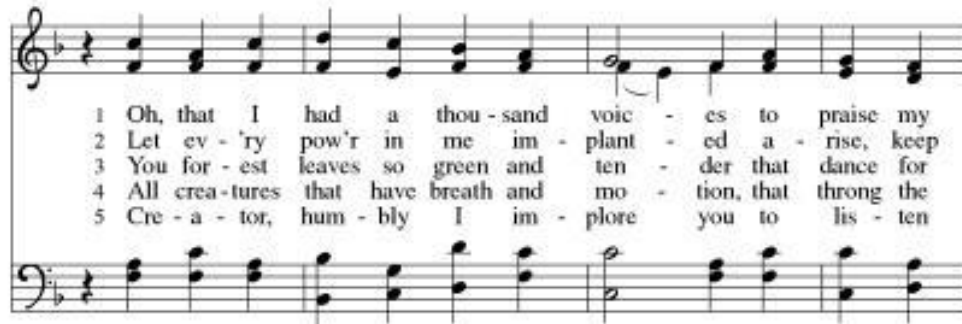
We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

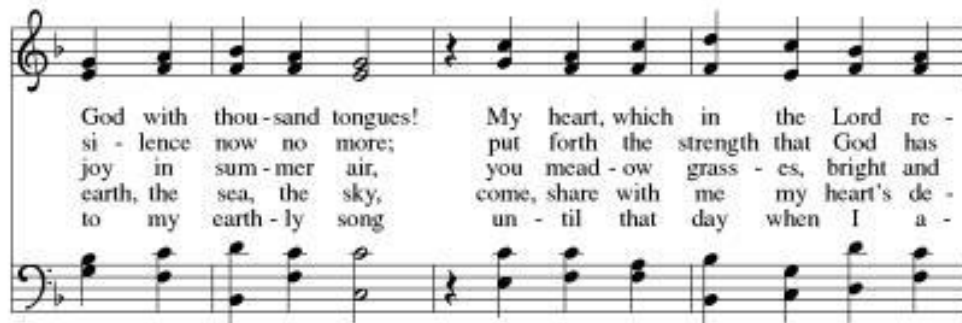
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

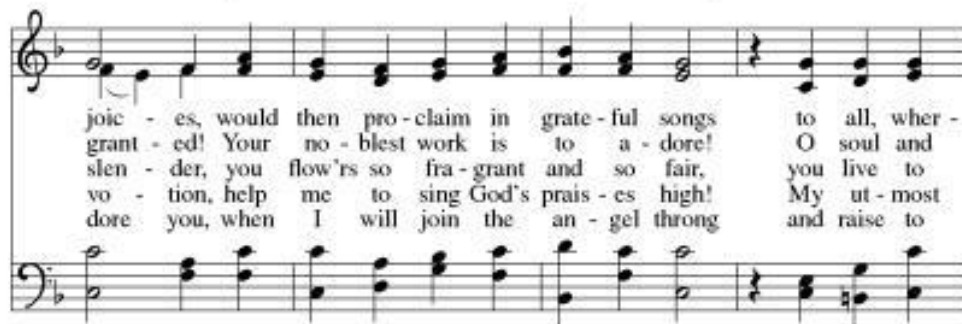
Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my
 2 Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep
 3 You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for
 4 All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throng the
 5 Cre - a - tor, hum - bly I im - plore you to lis - ten



God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
 si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has
 joy in sum - mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and
 earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -
 to my earth - ly song un - til that day when I a -



joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -
 grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and
 slen - der, you flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, you live to
 vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most
 dore you, when I will join the an - gel throng and raise to



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!
 bod - y, join to raise with heart - felt joy your mak - er's praise!
 show forth praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!
 pow'rs can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!
 you with joy - ful cry ten thou - sand hal - le - lu - jahs high!

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658-1734; tr. composite
 Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZÜNGEN HATTE, Johann B. König, 1691-1758
 Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Glorious God,

Your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

READING: Genesis 32:22-31

²²[At night Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 17:1-7, 15

Hear a just cause, O LORD; give heed to my cry; listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.

Let my vindication come forth from your presence; let your eyes be fixed on justice.

Examine my heart, visit me by night, melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.

I have not regarded what others do; at the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.

My footsteps hold fast to your well-worn path; and my feet do not slip.

I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; incline your ear to me and hear my words.

Show me your marvelous lovingkindness, O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise against them.

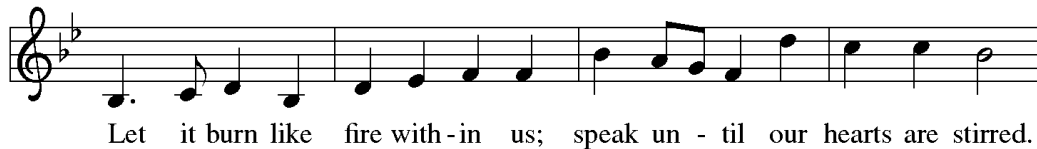
But at my vindication I shall see your face; when I awake, I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

READING: Romans 9:1-5

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two

fish.”¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, My Faithful God

1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;

with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;

give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,

a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT Abassens Fritsch, 1629–1701

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

In the faithful hands of Christ, our little is multiplied to feed many. Let us offer of ourselves, so that the love of God may be multiplied in the world.

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

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

Come, Let Us Eat



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.
Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.
Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Son of God, Eternal Savior

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live,
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give,
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

Musik: IN BABILONE. Oude en Nieuwe Hollandsche Boerrealities en Contradanssen, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932

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 grace of God be multiplied in you and through you.

May Christ's love forever empower you.

And may the Spirit continue to flow through your life.

In the name of our Creator, † Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

O Living Bread from Heaven

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Living Bread from Heaven'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place.
3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here

The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest,
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;

O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,

My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die,
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Through Isaiah, God calls, “Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1, ESV). We come today to the Living Water made known in Jesus Christ. Welcome.

Lord, sometimes I feel like you and I are wrestling. Remind me that my questions are okay, and bless me as you did Jacob (Genesis 32:22-31).

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 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.

LIVING RIVER CONCERT, OCTOBER 1, 2023 SAVE THE DATE!!!

St. John has contracted with Living River Quartet to perform on **Oct.1, 2023**

at 2:00 pm. Living River praises God with their music. They share a blend of contemporary praise and worship, gospel and a cappella styles. The lyrics reflect the light that only Jesus Christ can bring to a hurting world. They cannot perform during worship service because one of their members is in ministry, so they are not available Sunday mornings. The polka band that performed in the past is now retired.

We will be offering a **10:30 Worship service** that day with our chili dinner and raffle to follow. The concert will be at 2:00 pm. in the sanctuary.

Please consider having your raffle item donations at church by Rally Sunday, September 10. Ticket sales will begin that day.

We are very excited to be hosting Living River and having our traditional chili dinner and raffle. The Nowaks are making their delicious chili and Linda Graveen is in charge of the raffle again this year.

We've not been able to share this special time together since Covid interrupted our world. Join us on October 1, to once again enjoy worship, food, fellowship, fun and music.

More information to follow. If you have immediate questions contact Barb Paulsen, Sue Harris or Linda Graveen (raffle items).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's book club will be discussing *The Secret To Happiness* by Jessica Redland.

Sunday, September 10 is "Rally Sunday" & "Blessing of the Backpacks." Please join our St. John education team as we celebrate the kick-off to our "school" year on Rally Sunday! On Sunday, September 10th, kids of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to the worship service for a "Blessing of the Backpacks." After worship we will celebrate the start of St. John's educational season with games, crafts, and music! All are welcome!



Monday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's book club will be discussing *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

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 August 6 – August 13

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship

August 8

9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

6:30 p.m. Church Council

August 13

9:00 a.m. Worship