

August 20, 2023 9:00 a.m. Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby 5304 N 44th Ave Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

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Sunday, August 20th 2023

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A Reverend Maggie Westaby

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

God declares: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. Confident in our deliverance, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

We confess to you our faults and failings. We have sought justice for ourselves but neglected justice for others. We have insisted on our rights but have not lived rightly in our relationships. We have desired mercy for our sins, but we have not offered mercy to those who have sinned against us. Forgive us. Help us to love as you have loved us. Amen.

God is our refuge and will not abandon us. In Jesus Christ \pm all your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee



Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

Your compassion embraces everyone, gathering the outcast and the lost. Help us to heal wounds of fear and distrust, that we may embody your merciful love and rejoice in your astounding grace in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

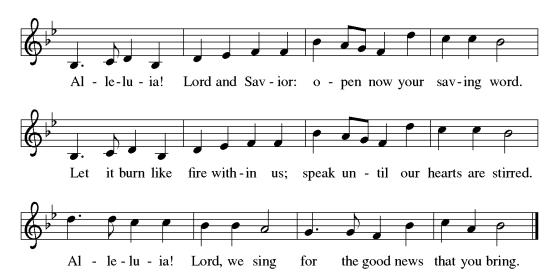
[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Are Welcome



Test: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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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

Let us give as God has so abundantly given to us.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927 Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

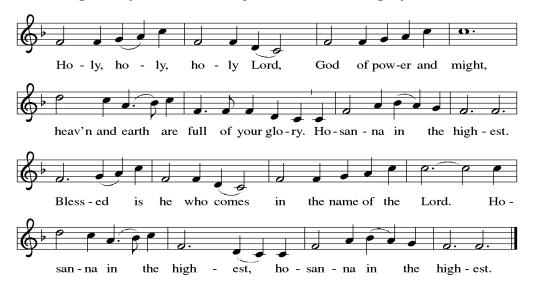
We lift them to the Lord.

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:



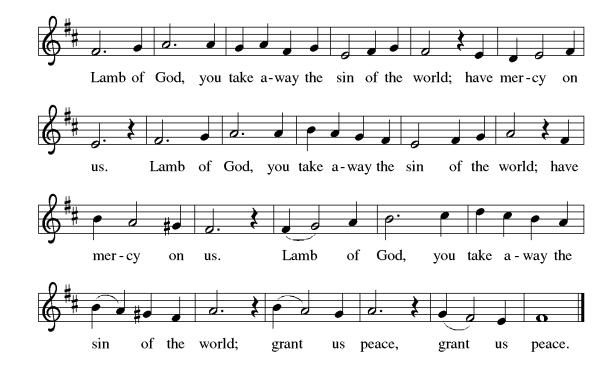
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 given for you.



COMMUNION HYMNS

One Bread, One Body



Text: John Foley, sr, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, st

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Just As I Am, without One Plea



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

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

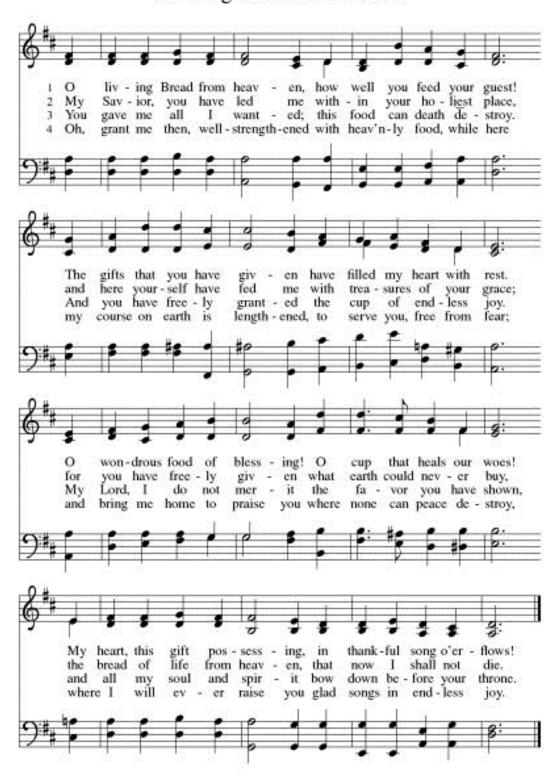
BLESSING

May the beauty of God be reflected in your eyes,
May the love of Christ be reflected in your hands,
May the wisdom of the Spirit be reflected in your words,
And may the knowledge of the Triune + God flow from your heart.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

O Living Bread from Heaven



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! Paul writes: "The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable" (Romans 11:29, NRSV). God has called you, so receive his gifts for you today: his love, his forgiveness, his life.

Dear Jesus, help me listen for your voice during this time of worship. Amen.

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

<u>July 16-20, 2024, National Youth Gathering!</u> 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.

<u>July 16-20, 2024, National Young Adult Gathering!</u> 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.

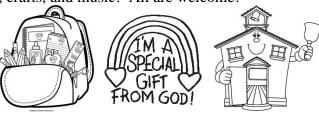
We are very excited to be hosting Living River and having our traditional chili dinner and raffle. The Nowak's are making their delicious chili and Linda Graveen is in charge of the raffle again this year. We've not been able to share this special time together since Covid interrupted our world. Join 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 Rally Sunday, Blessing of the Backpacks, Potluck, Parking Lot Meeting, and Maine Elementary School Drive. Please sign-up for our Potluck. This year's theme is bring your favorite appetizer, and yes your appetizer can be a dessert. During the potluck, we will discuss St. John's parking lot. Also, this Sunday is our kick-off to our "school" year! 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!



Rally Sunday Maine Elementary School, Snacks, Pants, and Pencils Drive: As we kick off our education season at St. John on Rally Sunday, we would like to also support our neighborhood school, Maine Elementary School! Time is set aside for a snack every day, but not every student has the resources to bring a snack each day. Teachers tend to provide snacks to these students, paying for them on their own. We'd like to help with that! Also, the younger students may have accidents during the day, and the health office is running low on clothes for them to change into. Finally, they're requesting Ticonderoga pencils. This specific name brand is the 'hardiest' of pencils, so students can worry about learning and not about constantly sharpening their pencils.

Items due: Rally Sunday, September 10th

Individually packaged snacks (NO nuts/peanuts/peanut butter) (ex: granola bars, crackers, fruit snacks)

Black leggings: size 5, 6/6x, 7-8

Gender neutral grey or black sweatpants: size 5, 6/6x, 7-8

Ticonderoga pencils (only this brand please)

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.

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 20 – August 27

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship

August 21

6:30 p.m. Pr. Maggie's Book Club

August 22

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

August 27

9:00 a.m. Worship