



September 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, September 3rd 2023
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A
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WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Trusting in the power of God to save, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

We confess that our love for you and for others has not been genuine. We have not held fast to what is good, and we have lagged in affection for our neighbors. We have not persevered in prayer. We have repaid evil for evil. Forgive us. Help us to trust in the power of your everlasting goodness. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ has broken the power of sin and evil and has opened to us the way of eternal life. In the name of † Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

GATHERING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:
 2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:
 3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known
 4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:
 5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer
 than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round
 sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,

this rings my cur - few call; may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 has none that can com - pare with "Je - sus Christ be praised!"
 the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.
 Music: LAUDES DOMINI, Joseph Bamby, 1838-1896

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

In the self-giving love of Christ, you have revealed the path of salvation; give us courage to deny our selfish desire and bear the cross of discipleship, that we may live as those who have no fear of death and receive the joy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand, I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 26:1-8

Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.


READING: Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. 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 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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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

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.

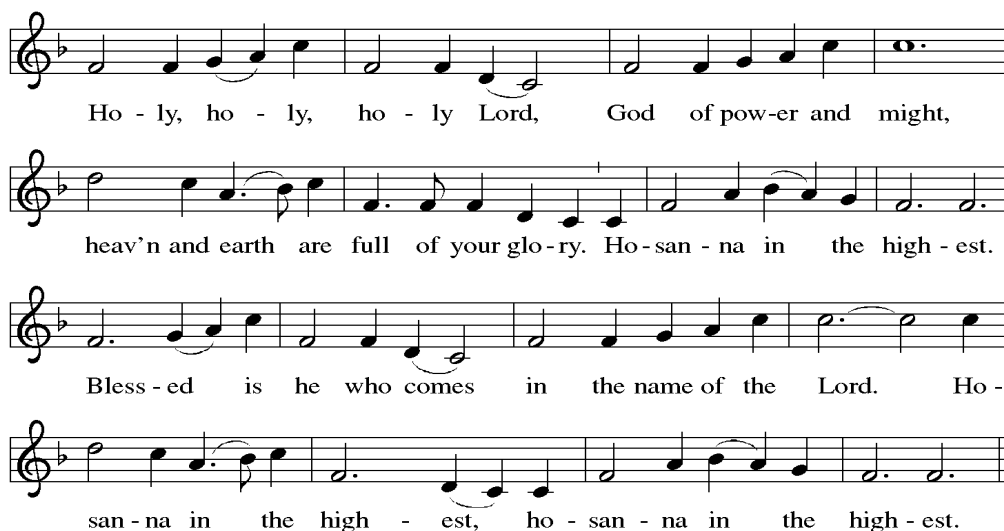
We lift them to the Lord.

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:



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.

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

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, who loves, forgives, and restores.



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

For the Bread Which You Have Broken



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.



Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895

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Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion, fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love,
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

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 blessing of God be with you,

May the love of Jesus fill you,

And may the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you.

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

Amen.

SENDING SONG

This Is My Father's World

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
 morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
 rus-tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901
 Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Welcome. As we transition from summer to fall, God leads us, steady in love and care, even as our seasons change. Let us worship.

It's Labor Day weekend, Lord — a good time to think about work and vocation. Guide me in the work, paid or unpaid, you most need me to do right now.

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.

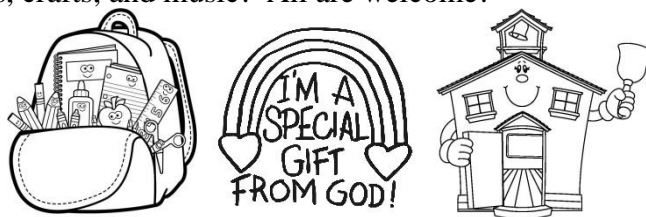
We are very excited to be hosting Living River and having our traditional chili dinner and raffle. The Nowak's are making their delicious chili and Linda Graven is in charge of the raffle again this year. We've not been able to share this special time together since Covid interrupted our world. Join 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 Graven (raffle items).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 'hardest' 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)

Men’s Breakfast – September 9 at 9:00 a.m. – LC Restaurant, Marathon (formerly The Village Inn).

Men’s breakfast will be starting up again on the second Saturday (September 9) at LC Restaurant in Marathon at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Maggie so the restaurant will know how many to plan for.

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.

Waypost Camp Invite & Information.

Waypost Camp Workday will be on Saturday, September 9 from 9 am to 4 pm (or whatever time you may be able to give). Work to be done includes picking up branches, cleaning gutters, light construction, staining wood (mostly interior projects), and possibly cleaning carpets. Lunch and a snack will be provided. RSVP at Waypost Workday Sign Up or email waypost@crosswayscamps.org for more information and the number coming in your group. Pastor Rich Block will respond to your email.

“Come to Camp” Day - Sept 23rd will be at Waypost community and church event on Saturday, September 23 from mid-morning to afternoon. Lunch and a snack will be provided. Opportunities during the day will probably include tours of the camp, swimming, archery, hikes, an information time about the camp, and a closing gathering. RSVP at Come to Camp Day Sign Up or email waypost@crosswayscamps.org for more information and the number coming in your group. Pastor Rich Block will respond to your email.

Coming This Week @ St. John September 3 – September 10

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship

September 4

All Day Labor Day/Church Office Closed

September 5

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

September 10

9:00 a.m. Worship & Blessing of the Backpacks

10:00 a.m. Potluck/Meeting/Sunday School Fun