

October 8, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, October 8th 2023
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WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, and the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin before the One who already knows our errors and is gracious to forgive our hidden faults.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving God,

You have planted us like a vineyard on a fertile hill. You cleared away the stones, planted us with choice vines, and kept watch over us by night and day. Yet we are overgrown with sin, choked with violence, and injustice. Forgive us, we pray. Uproot our evil, prune away our sin, and shower upon us the gift of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Our salvation does not depend on anything we have done, but comes from the grace of God alone. This is the good news: in Jesus † Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

O Day Full of Grace

1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on
 2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the
 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the
 4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, the Spir - it new
 5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for

earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may
 earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -
 cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the
 life re - veal - ing, that we might no more in death be
 us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -

be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son. God, shine for us
 lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all
 stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -
 lost, its pow'r o - ver us dis - pel - ling, This flame will the
 glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and there we will

now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.
 mor - tals did em - brace, all shame and des - pair re - mov - ing.
 gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.
 mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all true heal - ing.
 join God's end - less praise, with an - gels and saints a - dor - ing.

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorsen, 1921–2001, alt.
 Music: DEN SIGNEDE DAG, Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842
 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, Maker of heaven and earth,

Give us your wisdom, give us your Word, and send us your Spirit. May we be the people of your vineyard and bear good fruit. May we cultivate your love in our midst and joy in our hearts. In Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.

Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;

behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

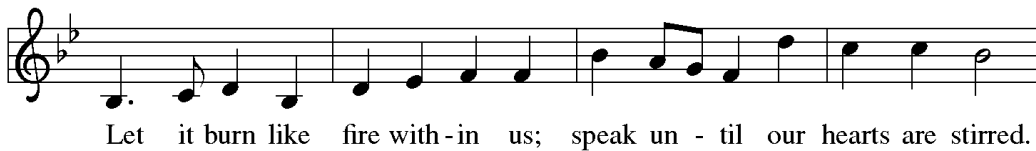
⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes

from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?’ ⁴³Therefore I tell you; the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

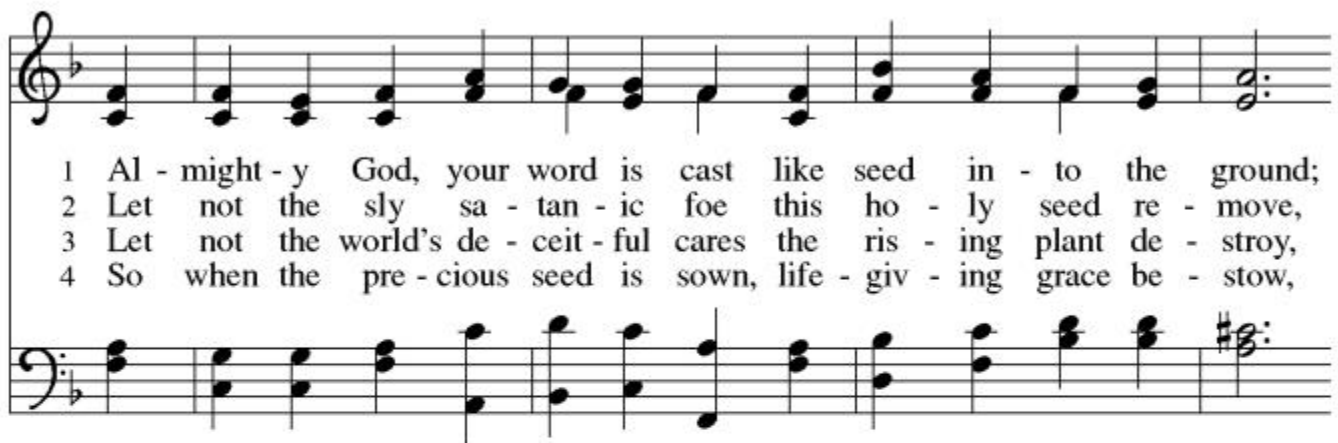
⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al - might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.
Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

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

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.

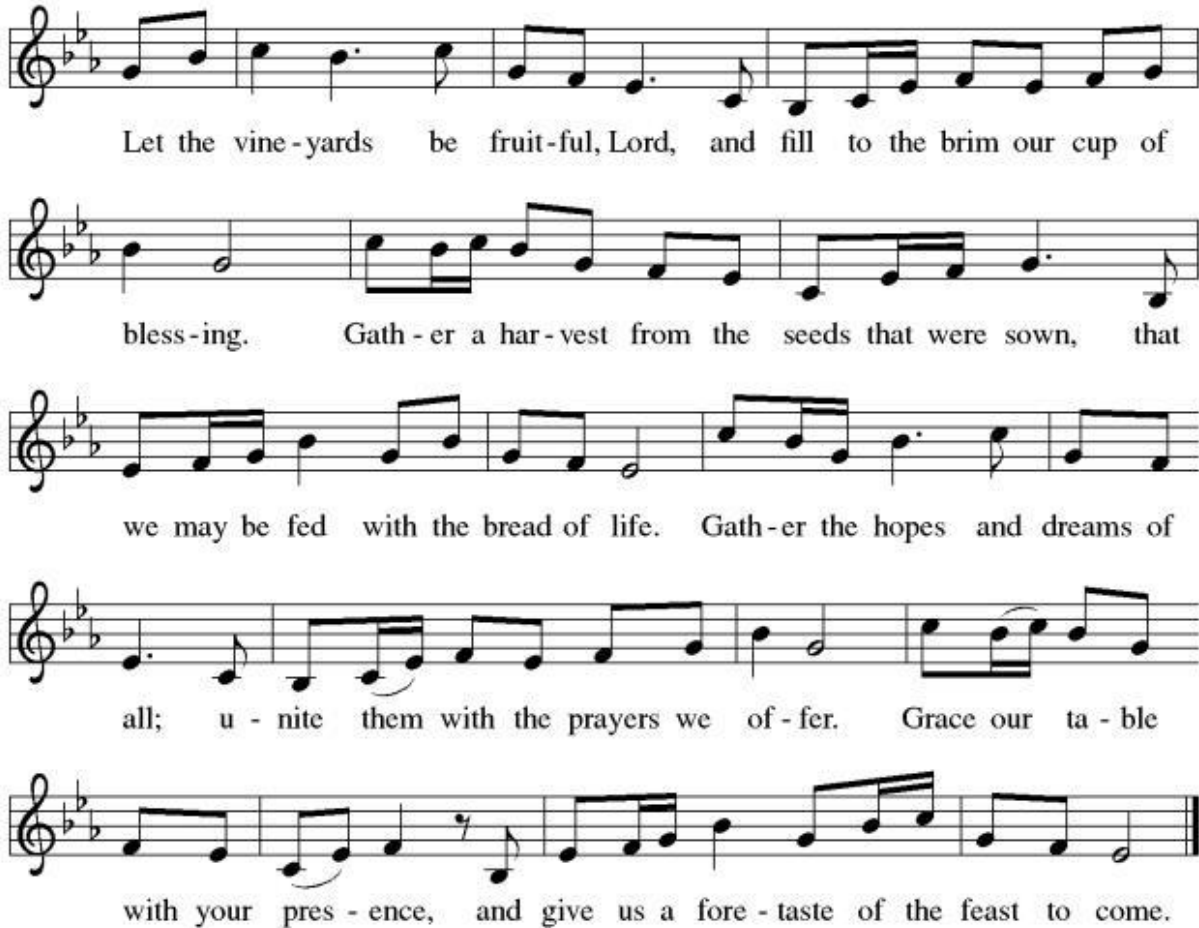
And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Without Christ, all that we have is nothing. With Christ, all that we have is everything. Let us offer what we have to 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

God of creation & God of plenty,

We give thanks for the gifts brought to your table. May they be used to support the ministry of your church, and may they be an extension of your love and mercy to those in need. In Christ we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

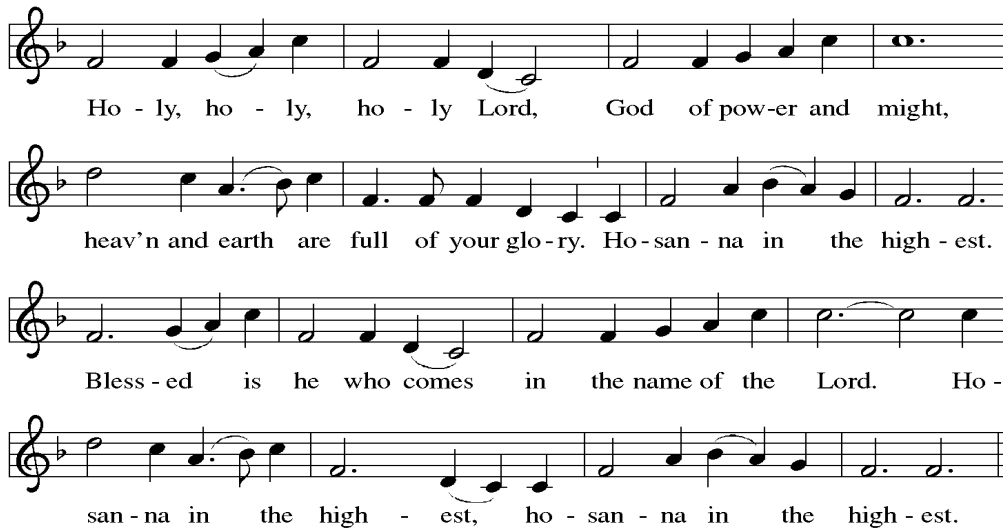
We lift them to the Lord.

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 God a little and would like to love God more. Come, because Christ loved you and gave himself for you. Come and live in the Spirit, 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

One Bread, One Body



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or Jew,	ser - vant	or free,
2	Man - y	the gifts,	man - y	the works,
3	Grain for	the fields,	scat - tered	and grown,



wom - an	or man,	no	more.
one in	the Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to one	for	all.

Refrain

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

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

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Give Me Jesus

1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
 2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
 3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
 4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
 5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,

in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
 dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
 just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
 oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
 and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain

Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.

You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God,

For we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God till up the soil of your heart, filling you with love and grace.

May Christ sow seeds of hope in you, nourishing them to sprout and grow.

May the Spirit cultivate peace in you, sending you forth rejuvenated.

And may the Triune † God spring forth fruit from places unexpected.

Amen.

Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word

1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;

Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav - en's gifts ex - tend to all.
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
let the gath - 'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: GOTT SEI DANK, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Welcome to worship in the name of God, the maker of all; Jesus, the Savior; and the Holy Spirit, divine guide of our lives. Amen.

We are tenants, not owners, of this “vineyard” — this earth, this life. God, as we live and work in your vineyard, teach us to cultivate love.

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.

JULY 16-20, 2024 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS

Registration for these events 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). The Young Adult gathering will be open to individuals who will be 18-35 at the time of the event! Please let Pastor Maggie know if you are interested so we can start planning and fundraising.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. John Quilting Wishlist. Left over fabric or never used fabric, light weight denim, cotton or flannel sheets, pillow cases, cotton curtains (unlined), cotton shower curtains. If you are interested, come join us! You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

Church Security. If you have a key to St. John and find yourself here during the week, please make sure the doors are securely locked behind you. If you leave through the double glass sanctuary doors, please make sure they are securely locked by giving them a few good pulls from outside the church!

Men's Breakfast. Pastor Will from Trinity in Stettin and St. Peter's in Marathon has invited all men from St. John to meet the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. At LC Restaurant, in Marathon (Formerly the Village Inn).

Saturday, October 21st at 8:20 a.m. at St. John in DePere. The women of the ELCA invite you to the 20th Biennial Convention. Registration is \$35 per person and is due by October 11th if interested, please let Pastor Maggie know.

Monday, October 23 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club will be discussing *Heaven Is For Real* by Todd Burpo.

Wednesday, October 25 at 6:30 p.m. the Adult Study will meet to discuss Part 2 of *What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything* by Rob Bell.

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 October 8 – October 15

Note: Pastor Maggie will be on vacation October 11-15.

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

October 10

8:30 a.m. Quilting
9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting
6:30 p.m. Church Council

October 11

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

October 15

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

Blessing for animals and pets

Let us pray. Gracious God,

In your love you created us in your image and made us stewards of the animals that live in the skies, the earth, and the sea. Bless us in our care for our pets and animals (*names of pets may be added here*). Help us recognize your power and wisdom in the variety of creatures that live in our world, and hear our prayer for all that suffer overwork, hunger, and ill-treatment. Protect your creatures, and guard them from all evil, now and forever. Amen.