



October 22, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

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Sunday, October 22nd 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.

Steadfast and faithful God,

You have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused,

known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ☩ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God,

You have made us in your image, and we belong to you alone. We offer ourselves to you, in service, love, and praise. Use us for the glory of your realm and the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed:²I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,³I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me,⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-9

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

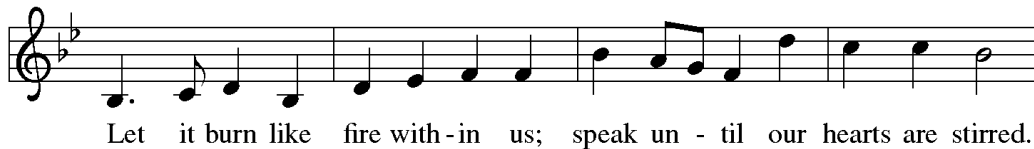
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of

those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” ²¹They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

All Depends on Our Possessing

1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
 2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
 3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
 4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing
 5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry

con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
 new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
 hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
 soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.

They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
 God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly
 To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing
 I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so
 Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -

not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
 I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.
 be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.
 way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

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

God created the heavens, and all the earth belongs to God. As Jesus taught us, let us give to God the things that are God's own.

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 G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

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.

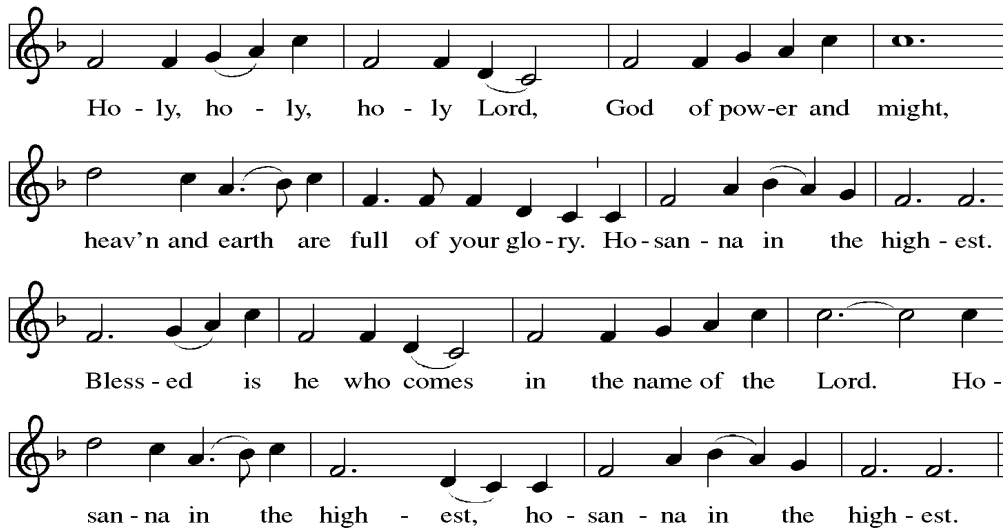
We lift them to the Lord.

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:



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.

Break Now the Bread of Life

1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
 2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
 3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly

broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
 blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,
 word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live

I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.
 all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
 with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.

Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
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Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
 Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

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 the boundless love of God, inspire you in new ways,
May the generous grace of Christ, rejuvenate your soul,
May the surprising movement of the Spirit, guide and delight you,
And may the serenity of the Holy God † Triune, be with you everywhere and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! To the church of [name of congregation] in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace” (see 1 Thessalonians 1:1). Welcome.

“From the rising of the sun and from the west ... there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:6, NRSV). I praise you, Lord God!

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

POINSETTIA ORDERS. Believe it or not, it is that time of year again to think about beautifying St. John's Sanctuary for Christmas. You will find an insert in the weekly bulletins for your order. Remember to make your check out to St. John with "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Do not combine your church contribution with the poinsettia payment on the same check. If you prefer, you can also pay with cash. Please put your order and payment in the offering plate or give it to Sue Harris. If you have any questions, contact Sue Harris. Thanks!

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!

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).

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.

Tuesday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m. St. John’s Sisterhood Ladies Christmas Gathering. Please consider joining the Sisterhood crew for our annual Christmas gathering at 2510 Restaurant. “Happy Hour” starts at 5:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 6:00 p.m. As per tradition, we will be collecting non-perishable items for the Women’s Community (toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, etc.) and holding our annual white elephant gift exchange... so start looking in those storage rooms and basements (this exchange will be held after dinner – don’t forget to wrap your ‘gift’!). A sign-up sheet and additional information is located in the Narthex.

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 22 – October 29

Today

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

October 23

6:30 p.m. Book Club

October 24

8:30 a.m. Quilting
9:00 a.m. Pastor Maggie @ Pr. Meeting

October 25

6:30 p.m. Adult Study Part 2 of *What is the Bible?*

October 29

9:00 a.m. Worship