



November 12, 2023
9:00 a.m.
All Saints Sunday, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby

5304 N 44th Ave

Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

Web Address: stjohnwausau.org

E-mail: pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com

Email: stjohnwausau@msn.com

Office: (715) 675-6950

Sunday, November 12th 2023

All Saints Sunday, Year A

Reverend Maggie Westaby

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Creator God, we give thanks for Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan,
As it was here that a sacred space was opened.

A space that has allowed sinners to be welcomed as saints,
Through Holy Baptism.

We give thanks for this Living Water.

Water that has been around since the very beginning
When your Spirit hovered over the deep.

We give thanks for healing at the pool of Bethesda,
For the water you sprang fourth from a rock in the wild,
For the water Jesus used to wash his disciples' feet.
And for calming the Sea of Galilee,

We give thanks for our local rivers:

The Wisconsin, Trappe, Rib, and Eau Claire
For Lake Wausau, and the Central Wisconsin Basin,
For all waterways, glaciers, lakes, and oceans.

May the everlasting waters of your creation fill us,
May your unending waves of grace bring us peace,
And may this water remind us to whom we belong,

United in Christ with all the saints who have come before,
And all who will come after, in the Living Water of our Creator. Amen.

For All Your Saints, O Lord

1 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,
 2 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,
 3 They all in life and death, with you, their Lord, in view,
 4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new
 5 To God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, ev - er blest,

who fol - lowed you, o - beyed, a - dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.
 who count - ed you their great re - ward, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.
 learned from your Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
 that we like them in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.
 the One in Three, the Three in One, be end - less praise ad - dressed.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776–1848, alt.
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,

Your Word brought creation into existence, and through your word we are united to Christ in our baptismal waters. For you are Living Water, and through your promises we are forever transformed. We are forgiven, and welcomed as saints into your eternal being. Today we remember and give thanks for all the saints who have gone before us. Grant us grace to follow your saints, to live faithfully, and to trust in your promises. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WELCOMING THE SAINTS OF ST. JOHN

Those who were baptized this past year

JACKSON MUELLER

SANDRA BRENNAN

HUNTER ZERNICKE

RIVER LANDRATH-JEPSON

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS OF ST. JOHN

Those who died this past year

PATSY ASKEW

VERNON BAHR

KATHIE REISSMAN

MARILYN GRUNENWALD

DALE SMITH

PATRICIA POESKE

ANDREW SCHREIBER

RODNEY TREU

JOANNE HARTFIEL

PATRICK PLUNKETT

CLIFFORD KNAPP

CANDLE LIGHTING

You are invited to light a candle in honor of all loved ones who have passed.

READING: Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” ¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

READING: 1 John 3:1-3

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 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 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Precious Lord, Take My Hand... I am sorry for the inconvenience, but these lyrics are not available.

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

How can we withhold our gifts of gratitude in the face of such wondrous love? With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our offerings 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.

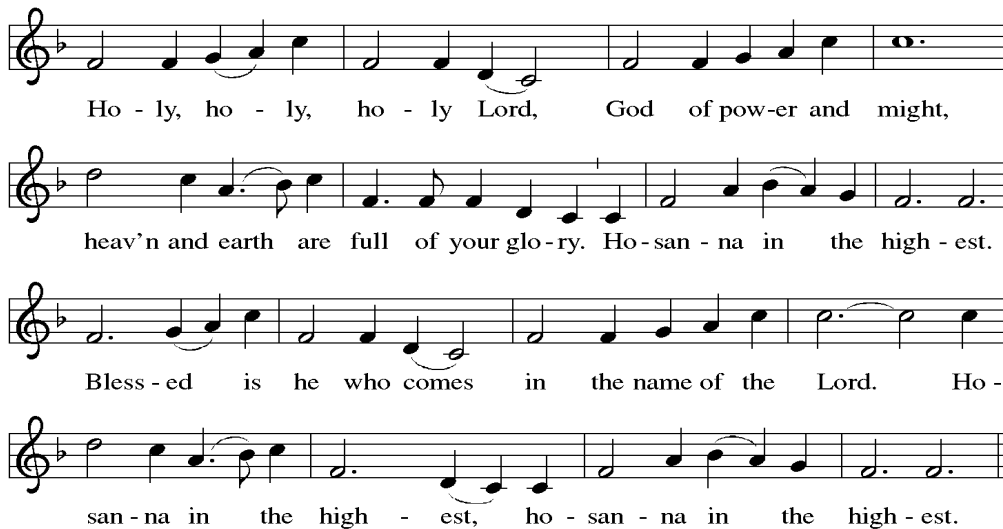
We lift them to the Lord.

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

Christ spreads a table before you. Gather here with all the saints.



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.

What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

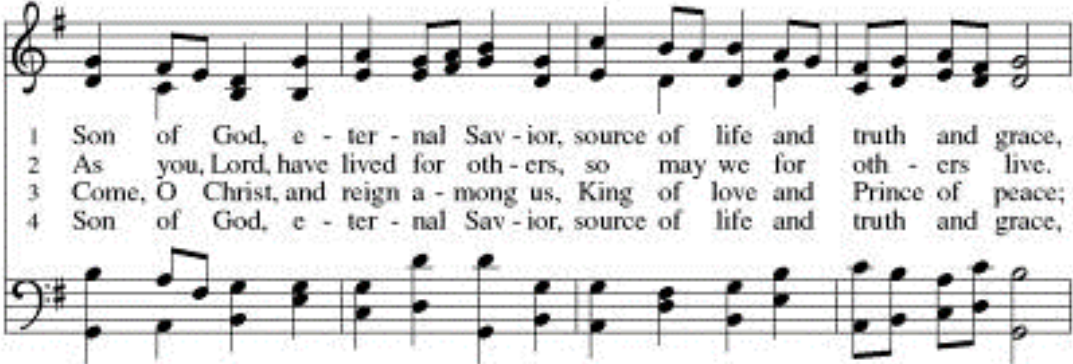
soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing,
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

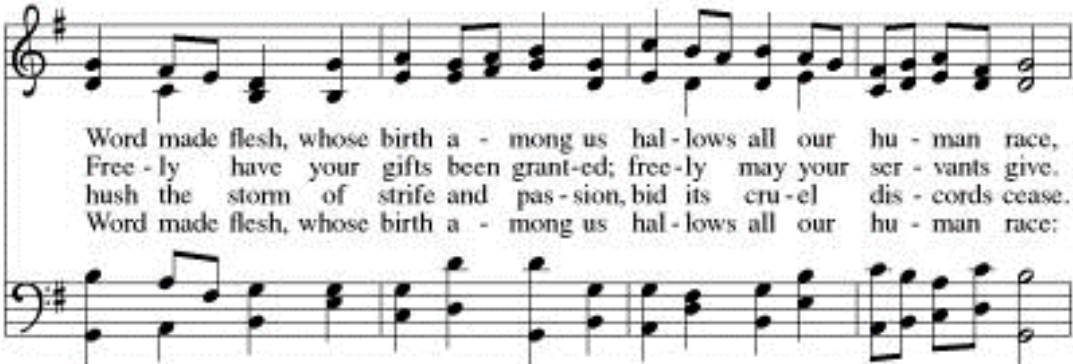
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt.
 Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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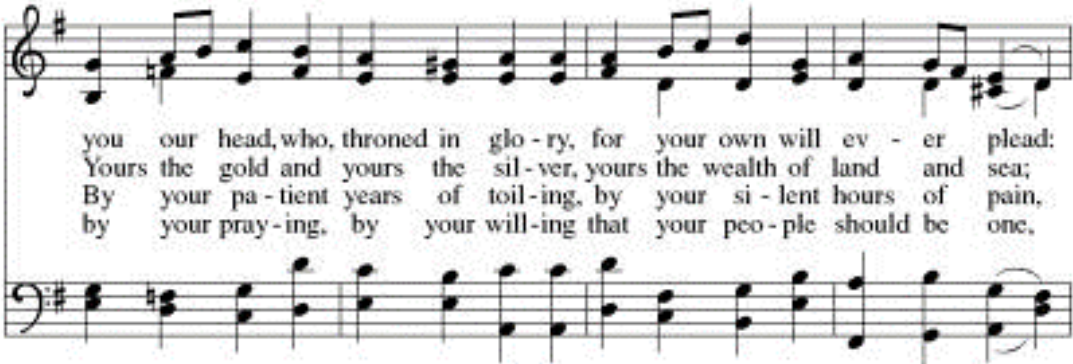
Son of God, Eternal Savior



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

Music: EN BABELONE. *Gedee en Nieuwe Hollandsche Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God,

We thank you for this meal and for the communion of saints present at your table. May this meal sustain us, and be a reminder that we never journey alone. Through Christ, the Living Word, in whom we see your face. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the God of peace, who creates all things and calls them good,
who makes us alive in Christ, and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
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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! "Let [us] give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds" (Psalm 107:8, NIV). Welcome to worship.

Praise to you this autumn morning, Creator God! Thank you for claiming me as one of your children.

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

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. Thanks!

2024 Time & Talent sheet is ready for you to select area(s) that you would like to help share your time and talent with your church! There are so many options, and the wonderful thing is that most have very little time investment for you, but the benefit is great to our church! Please take a moment to look over the Time & Talent sheet, it is divided into different areas of service, with the council chairperson's contact info listed, for you to reach out to with any questions you may have. Please fill out and return your sheet in the offering plate on any Sunday, leave in Mary's (secretaries) mailbox, or even call / email me and we'll get you signed up! Please take time to fill out a Time & Talent sheet, even if you already serve in areas of the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lane Bahr.

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!

Advent Resources Available. ELCA Advent Devotionals & Advent Calendars are in the Narthex. If you are interested in Kate Bowler's Advent Devotional, see Pastor Maggie.

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).

Sunday, November 19 after Worship St. John Annual Pie Auction! Bring home baked pies and desserts, items from your favorite bakery or store, and of course your wallet to buy some yummy treats while supporting a great cause! This year the proceeds from the pie auction will be donated to the Wausau High Schools Food and Hygiene Pantries! Joining in the fun of the auction, taking home some amazing treats, and supporting the youth and families in our community = a great win! Please bring dessert items to be auctioned on Sunday morning. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Paulsen.

Tuesday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Evening Worship.

Monday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie's Book Club will be discussing *90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper.

Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. The Adult Study will meet to discuss part 3 & 4 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 are located in the Narthex.

Sunday, December 17 worship is at 10:00 a.m. for our Children's Christmas Program!

Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas. A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time, and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. All are welcome.

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 November 12 – November 19

**Note: Pastor Maggie has Continuing Education Sunday afternoon through Tuesday*

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship – All Saints Sunday
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

November 14

8:30 a.m. Quilting
5:30 p.m. Council Meeting & Budget

November 15

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

November 18

10:00 a.m. First Communion Class

November 19

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Pie Auction!
10:15 a.m. Sunday School