



September 1, 2024
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B
9:00 a.m.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

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WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

With sincere hearts and minds, let us confess our sins before God and the world, trusting in God's mercy to forgive. God of light,

We confess that we live in the shadows of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. We honor you with our lips, but we have not served you in our hearts. We are satisfied with norms and avoid your liberating truth. Forgive us, and guide us, that we may serve you with sincere hearts; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

People of God, do not despair: God renews us by the word of truth, that we might become the first fruits of God's creation. In the name of Jesus † Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

In Jesus Christ you have shown us the truth of your commandments. Give us sincere hearts that we may serve you with joy, obey you with love, and manifest your wisdom to the world; through Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

READING: Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

READING: James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God. Word of Life. **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: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The holy gospel according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of The Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

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

Responding to "Merciful God," with "receive our prayer."

PEACE

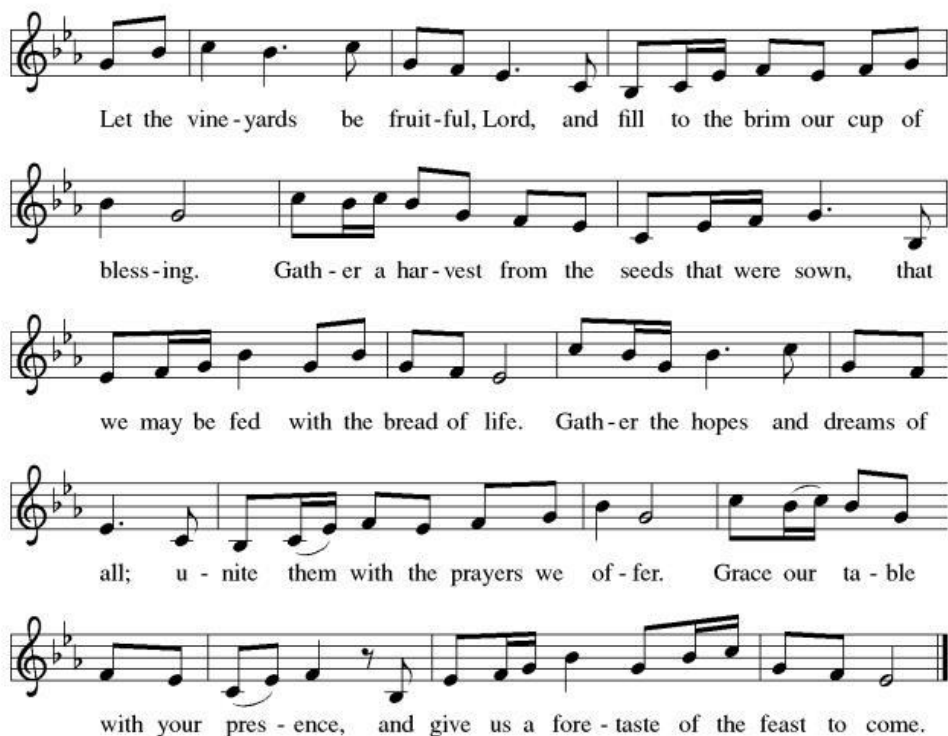
The peace of Christ be with you always.

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
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God,

Receive these gifts for the work of your church. With these gifts we dedicate ourselves to live in the truth of your word, and follow your commandments with sincere hearts; through Christ our Lord.

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.

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.

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

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

Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

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The Church's One Foundation

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God,

You have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the majesty of the Creator be the light by which you walk,

May the compassion of Christ be the love by which you walk,

May the presence of the Spirit be the power by which you walk,

And may the peace of the Triune † God bring serenity to your path.

Amen.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve.

Thanks be to God.

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Welcome to all! Welcome to worship this Labor Day weekend. May God be in our work and our leisure, our fellowship and our praise.

"Lord ... whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts." ("Lord of All Hopefulness," Jan Struther)

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.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to Christ's Table.

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 *Shopping Cart* next to the main entrance. **Reminder, food pantries cannot accept expired donations.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 8: Rally Sunday, Blessing of the Backpacks, Potluck, and Maine Elementary School Drive. Please bring a dish to pass for our Potluck. This 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 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! The school is in need of individually packaged snacks, no nuts/peanuts, and they prefer cracker/pretzel type snacks (not sugar/cookie type snacks). Thank you for your generosity and support to Maine Elementary!

St. John Cemetery Association Needs Your Help! Our cemetery needs your help. If you have family or friends buried at our cemetery, we could use your support. We have many fallen-down stones that require perpetual care. Please reach out to Sara Stubbe for details. If you know of any non-St. John member with family or friends buried here, please share this request. The Association is also looking for lawn care help (about 4 hours/5 times per summer). If interested, please contact Sara at 715-571-2584 or mskr.stubbe@gmail.com.

Kwik Trip Gift Cards Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Help support St. John when buying groceries, gas, or getting your car washed at Kwik Trip!

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 8:00 a.m. At LC Restaurant, in Marathon (Formerly the Village Inn). The first gathering will be Saturday, September, 14 at 8:00 a.m.

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!

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 September 1 – September 8

Today

9:00 a.m. Worship

September 2

All Day Church Office Closed for Labor Day

September 8

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

10:15 a.m. Rally Sunday – Potluck, Congregation Meeting, Sunday School

***Pr. Maggie will be out of the office August 27 – September 4. Pastor Karoline from St. Stephen will be available for Pastoral Care.**