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*Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."*

*Luke 10:42*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

P.O. Box 411

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Rev. Mark Bringman, Pastor

John Thickey – Music Director

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

*Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." Almighty God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word from above. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, with Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the words of life.*

**PRELUDE:** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* arrangement by Robert Lind

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
 abounding in steadfast love toward us,  
 healing the sick and raising the dead,  
 showering us with every good gift.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin  
 in the presence of God and of one another.

Just and gracious God,  
**we come to you for healing and life.**  
**Our sins hurt others and diminish us;**  
**we confess them to you.**  
**Our lives bear the scars of sin;**  
**we bring these also to you.**  
**Show us your mercy, O God.**  
**Bind up our wounds,**  
**forgive us our sins,**  
**and free us to love,**  
**for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

The apostle Paul assures us:  
 "When we were dead in our trespasses,  
 God made us alive together with Christ,  
 nailing the record of our sins to the cross."  
 Jesus says to you, + "Your sins are forgiven."  
 Be at peace, and tell everyone  
 how much God has done for you.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #654 - *The Church's One Foundation***

**\*GREETING**

From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
grace and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 17:15 – 17, 18:1 - 15**

*The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long—awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age. Both Abraham and Sarah laugh about this, but God laughs last and best.*

<sup>17:15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." <sup>17</sup>Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

<sup>18:1</sup>The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little

water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." <sup>10</sup>Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup>Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 15

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Lord, who may dwell within your house<br/>Or on your holy hill?<br/>Those who do good and speak the truth,<br/>Whose lives are blameless still;</p> | <p>3. Who do no wrong, but keep their word<br/>And seek no bribe or gain;<br/>All those who do such things shall live<br/>And safe from harm remain.</p> |
| <p>2. Who have no guile upon their tongues<br/>Nor harm their neighbor's life,<br/>But honor those who fear the Lord<br/>And turn away from strife.</p>   |  |

Tune: Song 67 From "A New Metrical Psalter" by Christopher Webber

### SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15 - 28

*Sometimes Paul preaches with great attention to theological concepts. Here, however, Paul offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup>And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him — <sup>23</sup>provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup>I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup>I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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 READING: Luke 10:38 - 42**

*Jesus uses his visit to two sisters as an occasion to remind disciples that an important aspect of obedience is singleminded devotion to Jesus and his word.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON****SERMON****\*HYMN OF THE DAY #861: *When Long before Time*****\* 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**

Confident in God's compassionate rule and enduring love, let us lift up the needs of the church, the world, and all of creation.

Dwell in the hearts of your people and mold us in your likeness. With Christ as our head, live and move in us, that we may be your hands reaching out to the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the wonders of your miraculous creation. Inspire in us an awe and appreciation for each tiny insect and every towering oak. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Reconcile all warring tribes and nations, and tear down the walls that divide us, that the peace of Christ may bring harmony and accord. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Hold us together when we are shattered, bring healing when there is no cure, and heed our pleas for those in pain or trouble especially Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Dine with us in the sweet communion of a shared meal and send your Spirit to joyfully dance among us. Grant us also times of rest and reflection, sitting at the feet of Jesus to listen. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bring us at the last to that day when we will feast with all your saints at the great wedding banquet prepared for us in your eternal home. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, hear the cries of your people, and answer us according to your steadfast love; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

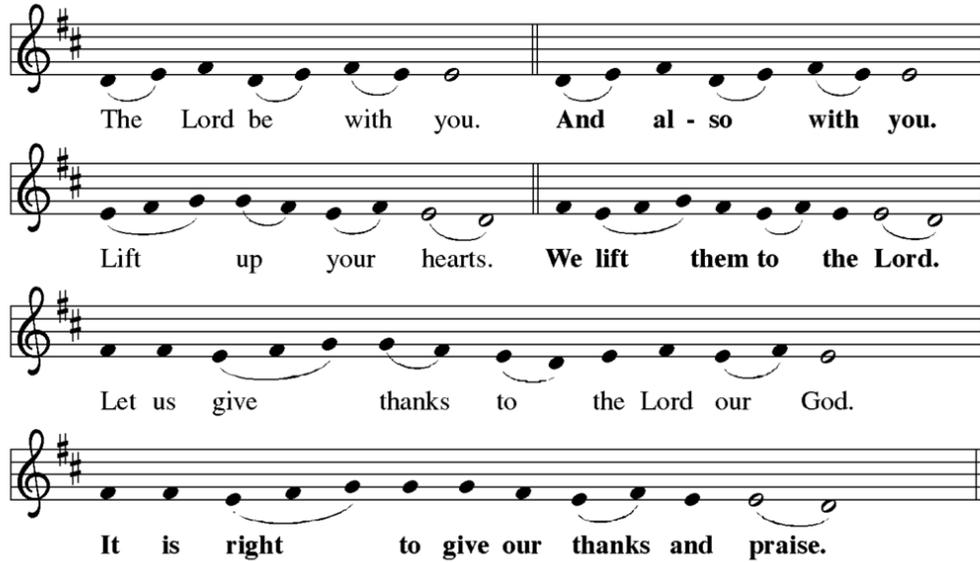
**OFFERING HYMN #737: *He Comes to Us as One Unknown***

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,  
God of mercy and grace,

the eyes of all wait upon you,  
and you open your hand in blessing.  
Fill us with good things at your table,  
that we may come to the help of all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

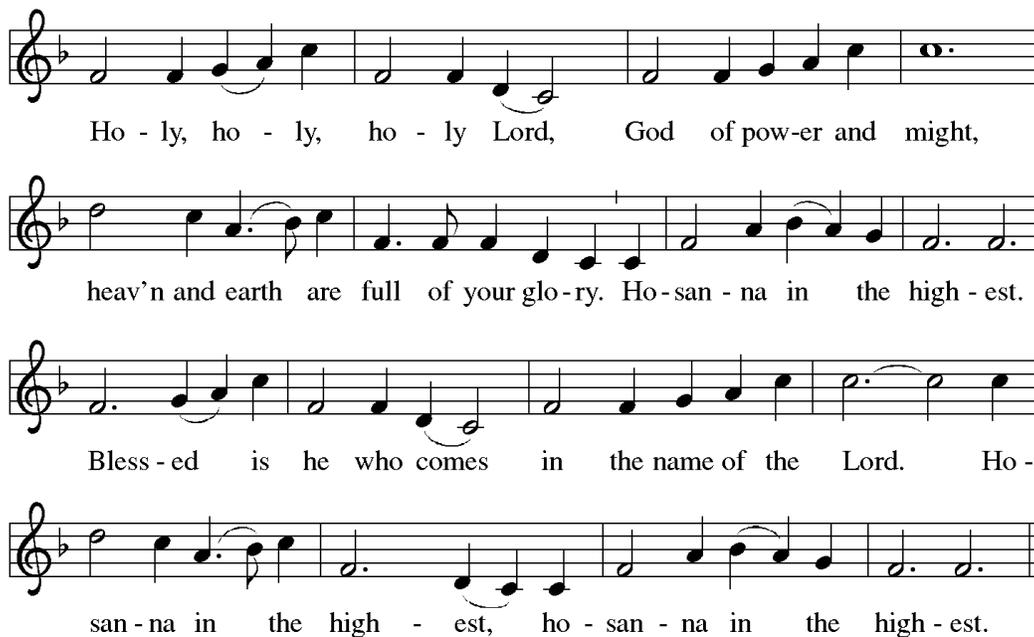


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**\*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:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



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.

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,  
in the harmonious world of your creation,  
the plants and animals,  
the seas and stars  
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,  
you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was handed over,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his acts of healing,  
his body given up,  
and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet.  
Welcome to the feast.

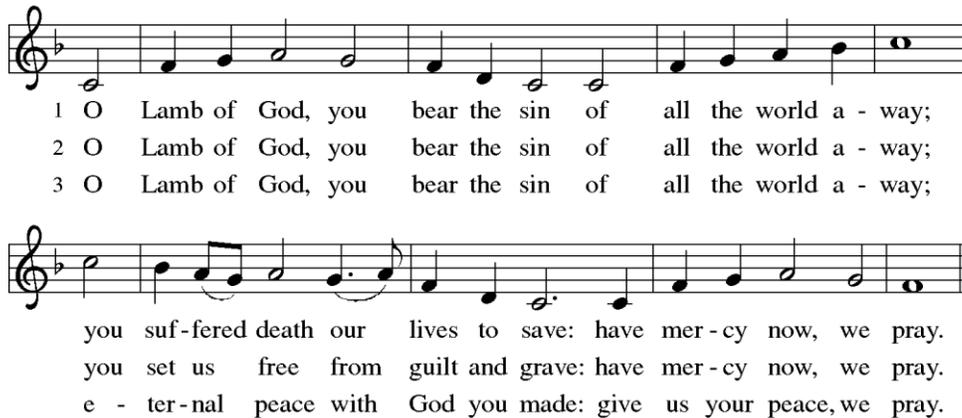
### COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The inner ring of individual cups has grape juice.*

### COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### COMMUNION HYMN #495: We Who Once Were Dead

#### \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace. **Amen.**

#### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, as a mother comforts her child,  
so you comfort your people,  
carrying us in your arms  
and satisfying us with this food and drink,  
the body and blood of Christ.  
Send us now as your disciples,  
announcing peace and proclaiming  
that the reign of God has come near;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor  
 and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #655: *Son of God, Eternal Savior*****\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PRELUDE:** *Toccata in Seven* by John Rutter

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The flowers on the altar are given by Dave and Cindy Knauff in honor of Andy's college graduation.

**Assisting Minister:** Kelly Greb

**Usher:** Zac Claus

**Counters:** Cindy Knauff & Sandy Hill

**Communion Assistant:** Sally Foster

**Acolyte:** Laura Greb

**Attendance Last Week:** (outdoor service) 84

**Attendance Last Year:** (wk 2 of July): 46

**Budgeted Weekly Need:** \$2,669.62 →  
 (2013 Annual Budget of \$138,820 divided by 52 weeks)

**Last Week's Giving:** \$2720; earmarked \$205

**Year to Date Receipts:** \$88,664.41

**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$77,418.85 (Weekly Expense  
 Need multiplied by 28 weeks - as of 7/21/13)

**YTD Actual Expenses:** \$64,215.24

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