



*⁴⁹I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it
were already kindled!*

Luke 12:49

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 18th, 2013

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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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 18th, 2013

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

PRELUDE: *Prelude and Cantilene religieuse* - Théodore Dubois

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 #813 - Faith of Our Fathers**

***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.

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23–29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back — those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 82

1. God stands in heaven's council hall,
Among the gods he judges right;
"How long will you be so unjust
And help the wicked by your might?"
2. Now save the orphan and the weak,
Defend the humble, those in need,
Rescue the poor, those without strength,
And save them from the wicked's greed.
3. They do not know nor understand;
Though blind, they shake the whole wide earth;
So now I say, "Though you are gods
Whom the Most High has brought to birth,
4. Yet like all mortals you shall die,
As any prince be overthrown."
Arise, O God, and rule the earth
And take all nations for your own.

Tune: Erhalt Uns Herr From "A New Metrical Psalter" by Christopher Webber

SECOND READING: 11:29—12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

^{11:29}By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented — ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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 12:49–56**

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁹I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON**SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY #633: *We've Come This Far by Faith

*** 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 love and enduring love, let us lift up the needs of the church, the world, and all of creation.

Almighty Father, send the fire of your word to cleanse and refine your church, and shine the light of the gospel to all the ends of the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, bring your cooling and refreshing breath into the world's parched places; protect the very young and the old, the earth's fragile habitats, and all that is vulnerable to the heat. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, all the nations belong to you; give justice to the weak and the orphan, and rescue the needy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, keep safe all those in the paths of destructive wind or water; heal those afflicted by poor living conditions; be near to all who are suffering especially Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, lead our congregation through times of strife and division; tend and nourish the vine of our faith that we may bear much fruit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, fulfill your promise to those who have run with perseverance the race, and at the last join us with that great cloud of witnesses before your everlasting throne. 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**

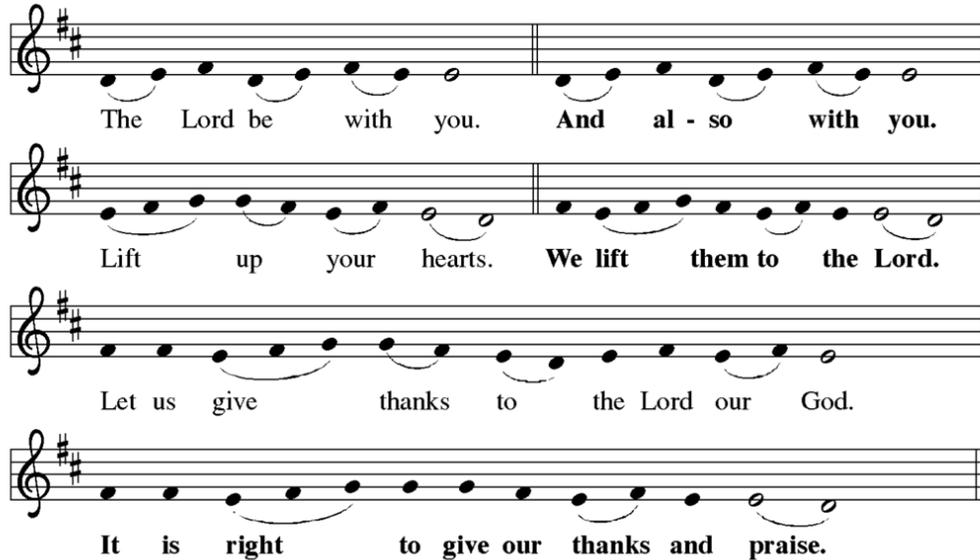
The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #467: We Place upon Your Table, Lord***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.

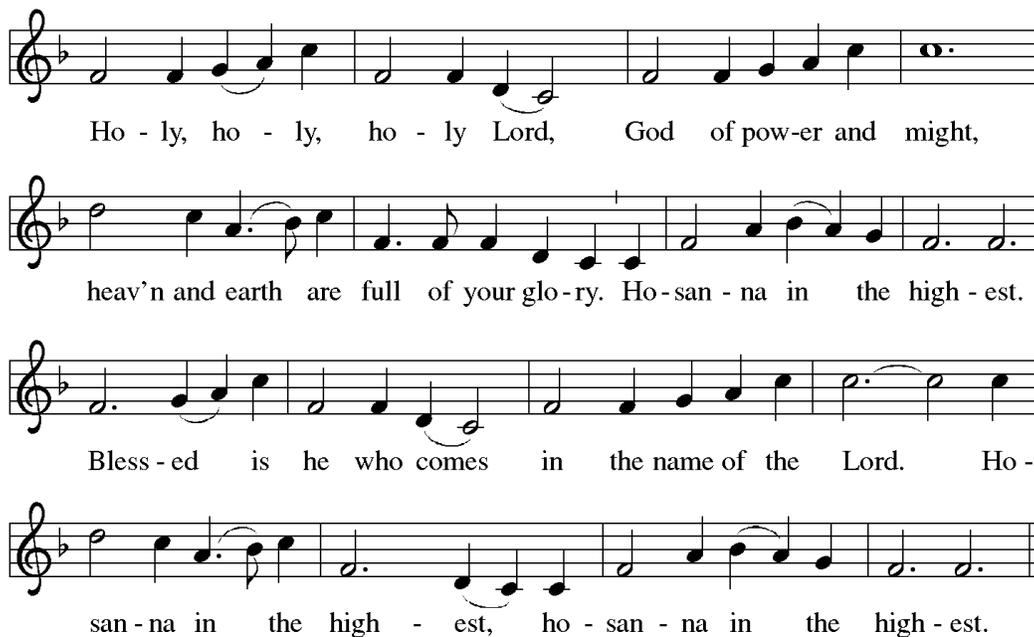
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

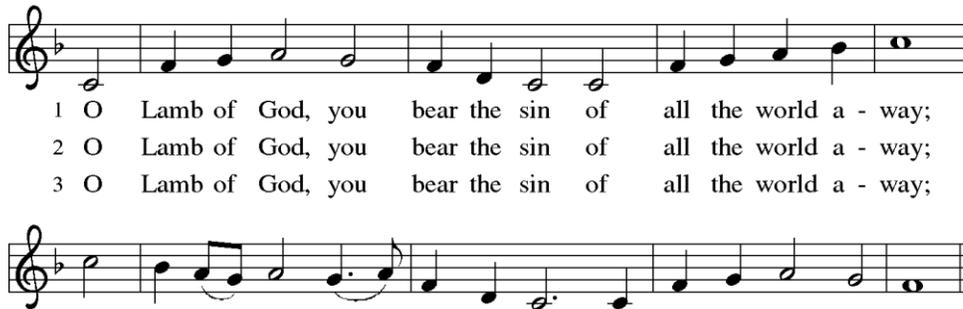
Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet.
 Welcome to the feast.

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 #815: : I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light***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 #788 *If God My Lord Be for Me

sung to the tune Aurelia

***DISMISSAL**

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

PRELUDE: *Marcietta* - Théodore Dubois

The flowers on the altar are given by Cindy and Dave Knauff

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer
Usher: George and Jan Leikauf
Counters: Missy Kramer and Sally Foster

Communion Assistant:
Acolyte: Laura Greb

Attendance Last Week: 47

Attendance Last Year: 69

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

→ **Last Week's Giving:** \$3230, earmarked \$430
Year to Date Receipts: \$99,398.41

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$88,097.31 (Weekly Expense
 Need multiplied by 28 weeks - as of 7/21/13)

YTD Actual Expenses: \$75,264.91

Door Fund: \$11,088 – just a note that the doors are ordered and have been for some time. They will be coming in September. Thank you for all your help with us getting new doors. **Also, the Mission Endowment Fund will be covering the remainder of the cost for the doors – so at this point they are paid for!**

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