




---

*<sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me  
cannot be my disciple.*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

*Luke 14:27*

P.O. Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

[www.stjohnchurchmars.org](http://www.stjohnchurchmars.org)

Phone: 724-625-1830    email: [office@stjohnchurchmars.org](mailto:office@stjohnchurchmars.org)

Pastor's cell: 724-766-6686    Pastor's email: [pastormarkbringman@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarkbringman@gmail.com)

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

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life" – to choose life in God as our own.*

**PRELUDE:** Chorale on 'O God, My Faithful God' – Johann Brahms  
Voluntary on 'Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus' – arr. Paul Manz

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God: the only Sovereign, who dwells in light; Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners; the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

**Amen.**

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

God of overflowing grace,  
**we come to you with repentant hearts.**  
**Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.**  
**Forgive us for passing by the ones in need.**  
**Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures.**  
**Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness.**  
**Bring us home from the wilderness of sin,**  
**and strengthen us to serve you**  
**in all that we do and say;**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents.

By the grace of God in + Christ Jesus,  
who gave himself up for us all,  
your sins are forgiven and you are made free.  
Rejoice with the angels and with one another!  
We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #660 - Lift High the Cross**

#### **\*GREETING**

Sisters and brothers in Christ,  
beloved children of God:  
grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men, a - men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15–20**

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 1**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Happy are those who have not walked<br/>With the ungodly of the land,<br/>Nor lingered in the sinners' way,<br/>Nor sat with those who mock God's hand.</p> <p>2. Happy are they who love the law<br/>And find in it their chief delight;<br/>They meditate continually<br/>Upon his law both day and night.</p> <p>3. Like fruitful trees by flowing streams,<br/>With leaves that never fade or fall,<br/>Are those who serve God day and night;<br/>They find prosperity in all.</p> | <p>4. The wicked are not so, they seem<br/>Like chaff the wind will blow away;<br/>They have no place with the elect<br/>Nor can they stand on Judgment Day.</p> <p>5. Then praise our God who knows so well<br/>The way in which the righteous go;<br/>The path which the ungodly walk<br/>Shall perish; this God's people know.</p> |
|---|---|

Tune: Richmond

From "A New Metrical Psalter" by Christopher Webber

**SECOND READING: Philemon 1–21**

*While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the

good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love — and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother — especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The word of the Lord.

**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 14:25–33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #802:** *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

#### \* 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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Holy and faithful God, teach your church to walk in ways of trust and obedience. Plant your presence among us, that the life you intend for us may flourish. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen fruit-bearing trees and plants, as harvests are gathered. Increase yields, and encourage just distribution of food throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Grant that all who are imprisoned or enslaved would know the freedom that you alone can give. Sustain them, that they would each one day know a safe and joyful homecoming. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gather together all people who feel removed from you because of illness, crisis, or fear especially Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Deliver them to a place of healing, and embrace them with your unfailing mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless Sunday school teachers and students, Bible study participants, and all teaching ministries. Let your life-giving word be freely shared among all who hunger for it. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Living God, refresh our hearts through the witness of the saints. Build us up as one community in Christ, and lead us to the good that comes from following you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O Holy One, we entrust all for whom we pray, confident in your abundant and abiding mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING HYMN #772: *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways***

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

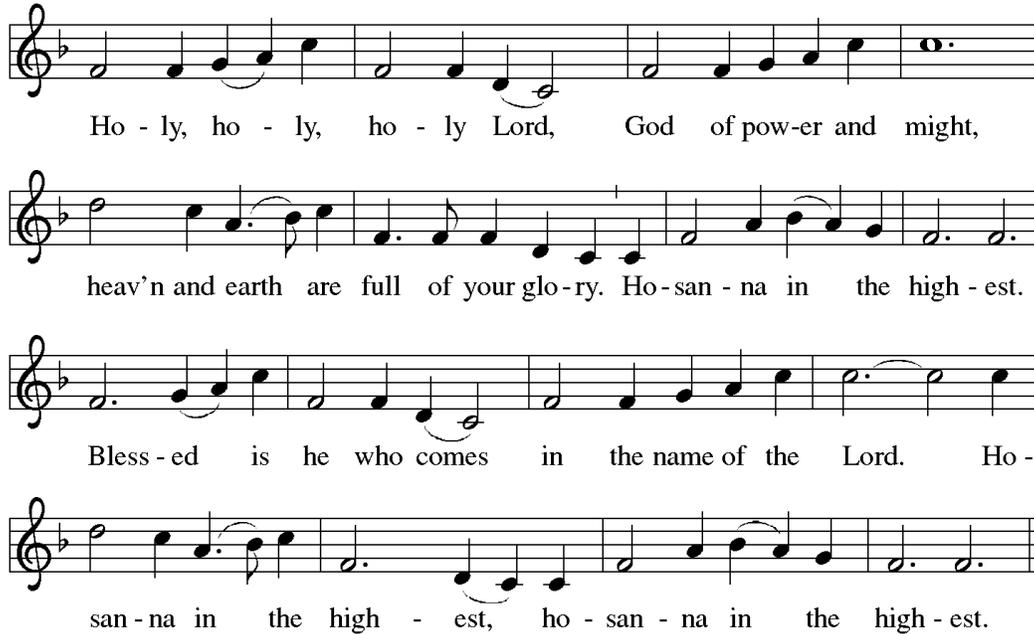
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,  
 you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,  
 and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners  
 and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us  
 and his rising from the grave,  
 we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:  
 strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,  
 and by this bread and cup make of us the body of 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**

Take hold of the life that really is life.  
Come, take your place at the table.

**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 #474: Bread of Life from Heaven**

**\*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.

We come again to you, O God,  
giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy  
you have embraced us and healed us,  
making us one in the body of Christ.

Go with us on our way.

Equip us for every good work,  
that we may continue to give you thanks  
by embracing others with mercy and healing;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF TEACHERS**

A reading from First Corinthians. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

Brothers and sisters, you have volunteered your time, your energy, and your gifts to the children, youth, and family ministries of this congregation. Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

*I will, and I ask God to help me.*

A reading from Proverbs. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. (Prov. 3:5-6)

Will you carry out this ministry centered in Christ's call, striving to trust God as your guide and inspiration?

*I will, and I ask God to help me.*

A reading from Ephesians. I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16-19)

Will you trust in God's care, seek to grow in love for those you serve, strive for excellence in your skills, and honor the gospel with a faithful life?

*I will, and I ask God to help me.*

I now ask you, people of name of congregation: Will you today renew your commitment to our youngest brothers and sisters, our children and youth who look to you for guidance, support, and examples of righteous living?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

People of St. John will you claim these gifted people as those called by God to help carry out our congregation's ministry to children, youth, and families? Will you support them and enthusiastically celebrate the work they do?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for these leaders and the young people they serve, celebrating our children and youth as the ones Jesus blessed and welcomed?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently. Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, who has given you the gifts and the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

**Amen.**

On behalf of St. John Lutheran Church, we now commission you for ministry, grateful for your gifts and your willingness to serve.

**\*BLESSING**

God Almighty send you light and truth  
to keep you all the days of your life.  
The hand of God protect you;  
the holy angels accompany you;  
and the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #731: *Earth and All Stars!***

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE:** ‘*Trumpet Tune*’ – Wayne L. Wold

---

**8 am Worship Helpers**

**Assisting Minister :** Laurie Passione  
**Communion Assistant:** Christine Dishong  
**Acolyte:** Dannielle Dishong  
**Usher:**

**10:30 am Worship Helpers**

**Assisting Minister:** Martha Ward  
**Communion Assistant:** Jim Ward  
**Acolyte:**  
**Usher:** Frieda Carbo

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39383.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United

States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.