



*⁴But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck
and kissed him, and they wept.*

Genesis 33:4

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost – October 20th, 2013
P.O. Box 411
Mars, PA 16046-0411
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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

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – October 20th, 2013

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is the encouragement of the Christ of the gospel today. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

PRELUDE: Prelude: Two Chorales on 'We nur den lieben Gott' - J.S. Bach & Paul Manz
(If You But Trust in God to Guide You)

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 #790 – Day by Day**

***GREETING**

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

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain
 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.

Refrain
 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.

Refrain
 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. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:3 – 13, 22 – 31, 33:1, 4 - 5

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

^{32:3}Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, ⁴instructing

them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have lived with Laban as an alien, and stayed until now; ⁵and I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male and female slaves; and I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.'"

⁶The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him." ⁷Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies, ⁸thinking, "If Esau comes to the one company and destroys it, then the company that is left will escape."

⁹And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, and I will do you good,' ¹⁰I am not worthy of the least of all the steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan; and now I have become two companies. ¹¹Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I am afraid of him; he may come and kill us all, the mothers with the children. ¹²Yet you have said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted because of their number.'"

¹³So he spent that night there, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, ²²The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

^{33:1}Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. ⁴But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. ⁵When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

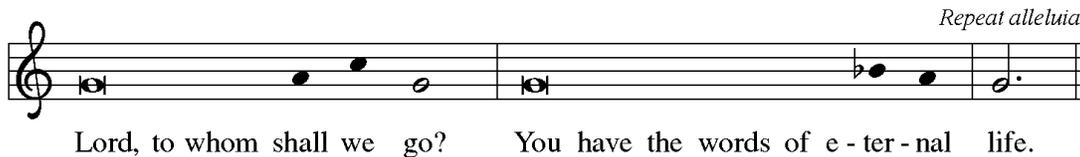
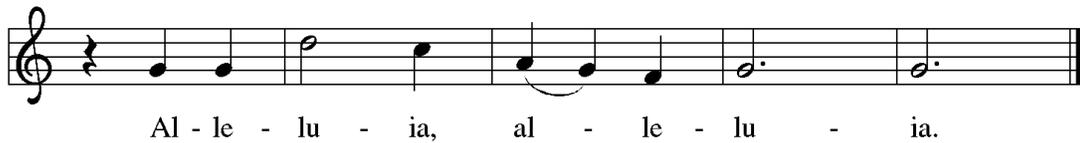
PSALM 121

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. I lift up my eyes to the hills,
From where shall I find aid?
My help will come from God himself
By whom the world was made.</p> | <p>3. The Lord keeps watch above his own,
And gives you shade at noon;
The sun shall not strike you by day
Nor yet, at night, the moon.</p> |
| <p>2. He will not let your foot be moved,
He watches day and night;
He does not sleep, for Israel
Is always in his sight.</p> | <p>4. The Lord shall save you from all harm,
Preserve your life in peace;
He watches as you come and go,
His care will never cease.</p> |

Tune: Shanti

From "A New Metrical Psalter" by Christopher Webber

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL READING: Luke 17:11–19**

Jesus tells a parable of a hateful judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #796: *How Firm a Foundation

***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.

God of all faithfulness, keep your people awake, always searching for situations and people that long for your mercy. Form us to be faithful in prayer and service. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With your almighty power shape mountains, carve rivers and streams, and enrich fields to yield abundant harvests. Help us see your good works throughout creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Be present in colleges, universities, trade schools, teaching hospitals, and seminaries. Fill institutions of higher learning with your wisdom and a thirst for knowledge. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out your abundant grace on all who call upon your name especially Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Heal their sicknesses; comfort them in sorrow; support them in grief. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mercifully engage those who wrestle with faith or belief in you, especially those who have been hurt by the church. Hold them fast, and draw them into your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living God, remembering with gladness the saints who put their trust in you, we pray you increase our faith to live according to your ways for the sake of your people. 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

OFFERTORY



OFFERING HYMN #188 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

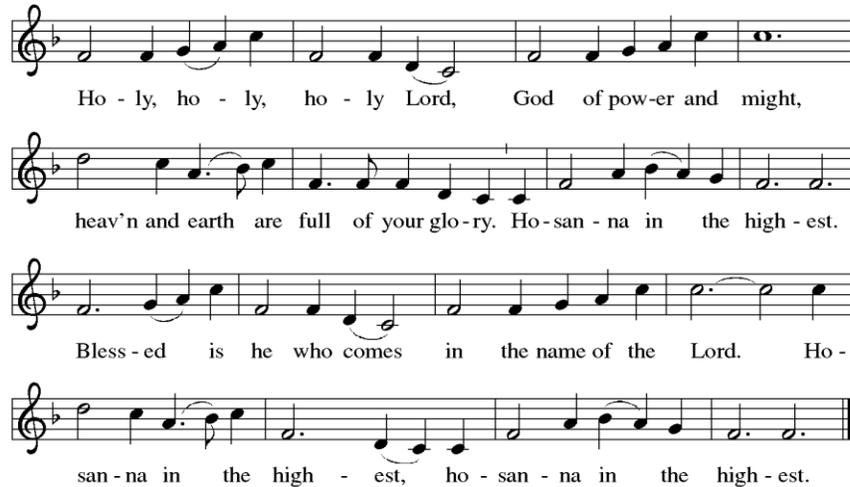
Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

***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, 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

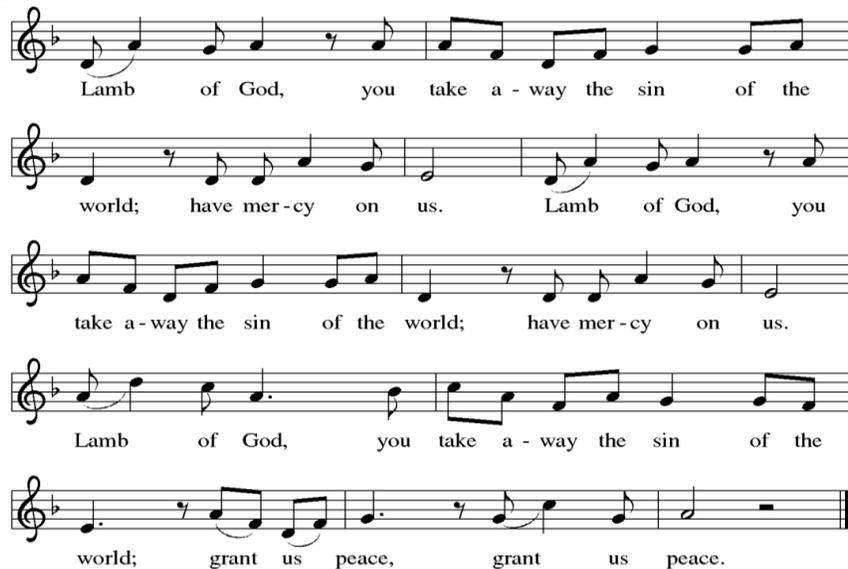
Take hold of the life that really is life.
 Come, take your place at the table.

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 area of individual cups on the platter, surrounded by green tape, contains grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG



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.

COMMUNION HYMN #814: Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

***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 #742: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Chorale on 'Was Gott tut' – J.S. Bach
(What God Ordains Is Good Indeed)

The flowers are given by Denise and Jim Hager in celebration of their 34th Wedding Anniversary today.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: David Knauff

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Usher: Todd Niklewicz

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Usher: Matthew Claus

Attendance Last Week: 69

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,669.62

Attendance last year: 59

Last Week's Giving: \$ 3,054.60

(includes Harvest Dinner
Proceeds)

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$112,123.85

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 99,958.61

Year to Date Receipts: \$126,559.26

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