



“The crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.”

Matthew 15:31

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – August 24, 2014

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Rev. Mark Bringman, Pastor

John Thickey, Director of Music

*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
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – August 24, 2014

In Isaiah the people are bid to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world, but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Bartholomew, Apostle

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

PRELUDE: *Voluntary on 'Melita' – Wayne Wold*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

God our strength,
**we confess that we are captive to the power of sin
that dwells within us.
We put ourselves first and others last.
What we think will make us happy
leaves us longing for more.
Even when we want to do what is good,
we find ourselves doing the opposite.
Rescue us from death's grip on our lives,
and raise us up day by day,
that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus.
Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, all have fallen short of the glory of God; therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in + Christ Jesus, in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG #654: The Church's One Foundation**

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1 –6 (page 681 in Old Testament)

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm 138

1 I will give thanks with my whole heart,
Before the gods my praise express;
I will bow down before your throne
And praise your love and faithfulness.

4 The Lord is high, yet scorns the proud,
Protects the lowly on his path;
Although I walk in trouble, Lord,
You keep me safe from hostile wrath.

2 Above all things, O Lord my God,
You glorified your Name and word;
I called and then you answered me
And gave me increased strength, O Lord.

5 The Lord's right hand shall save my life
And make his purpose for me sure;
Do not forsake what you have made;
Your love forever will endure.

3 All kings on earth who hear your words,
O Lord, will give you thanks and praise
And tell how great God's glory is,
And they will sing of all his ways.

From: A New Metrical Psalter

Tune: Herr Jesu Christ

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1 – 8 (page 161 in New Testament)

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by this age, but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 15:29 - 39** (page 17 in New Testament)

In Mark's gospel Jesus feeds 5,000 and then 4,000. It is a reminder that the kingdom of God is a place overflowing with God's bounty, that his desire for the world is to be well and full in him.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. ³⁰Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, ³¹so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

³² Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way.' ³³The disciples said to him, 'Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?' ³⁴Jesus asked them, 'How many loaves have you?' They said, 'Seven, and a few small fish.' ³⁵Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, ³⁶he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ³⁷And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ³⁸Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. ³⁹After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #652: *Built on a Rock

APOSTLE'S 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**

Filled by the Spirit, let us join the whole people of God in Christ Jesus in praying for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Lord of the church, remind us that though we are many, we are one body in Christ. Teach us to use our grace-given gifts with generosity, compassion, and humility. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit blows over all the wild places of this earth, reminding us who is in control. Preserve the wilderness areas and coastlands, and help us minimize our impact upon the land. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Transform all nations by renewing the minds of their people. Provide adequate educational facilities and well-trained teachers for students of every age so that they learn, grow, and fulfill your purpose for their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Stretch out your hand to preserve us from trouble and deliver us from poverty. We pray for peace and reconciliation among all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shine your face upon those in need of healing for bodies, minds, and spirits, especially Robert, Tim, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Strengthen our faith and fill us with hope as we humbly kneel before you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give a discerning spirit to our congregation as we prepare for outreach ministries, programming for families and youth, and meaningful worship. Assign each member a measure of faith to make your vision a reality. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you heartfelt thanks for the diligent leadership and faithful service of those who have died and now rest in you. Continue to build your church upon that strong and enduring foundation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***HEALING SERVICE**

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

***LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

Those who wish to receive laying on of hands (and anointing) approach and, as conditions permit, they may kneel. Pastor Mark will lay his hands upon the heads of those that come forward, and if they desire, anoint their heads with oil, making the sign of the cross, reminding us that healing is a sign of God's kingdom.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant, _____; drive away all sickness of body and spirit; make whole that which is broken; deliver *her/him* from the power of evil; and preserve *her/him* in true faith, to share in the power of Christ's resurrection and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

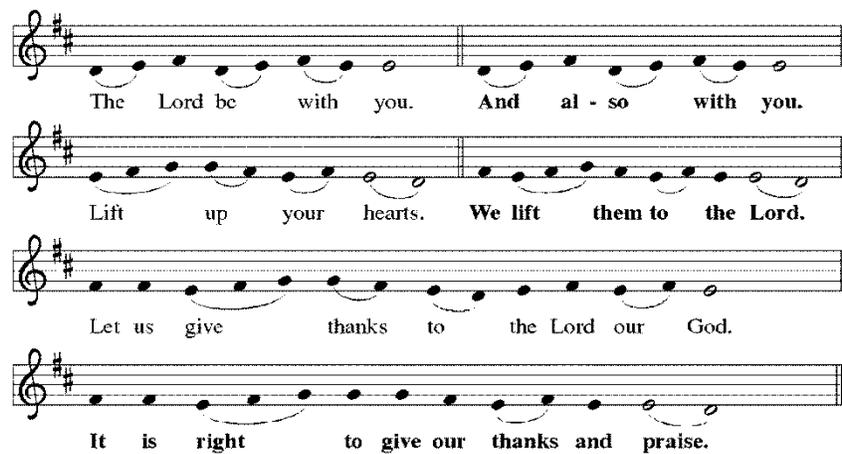
And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER**

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

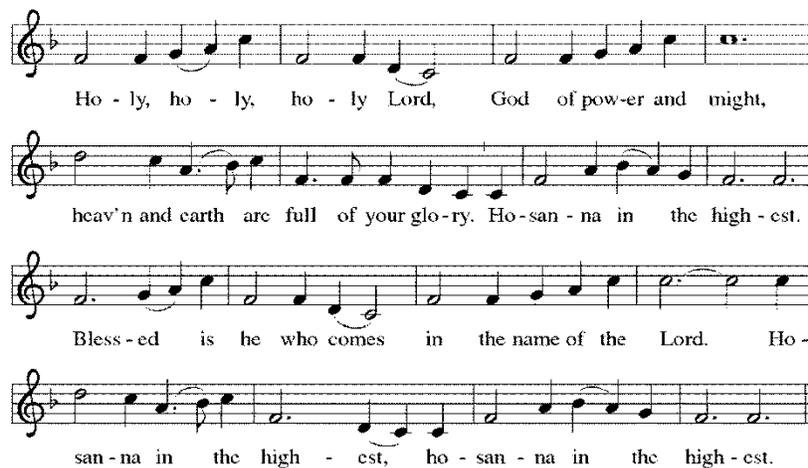


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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

Everyone who hungers, come to the table. Eat what is good, that you may live.

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 cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



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 #685: *Take My Life, That I May Be

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

May you be strengthened by this meal of grace until all are one in the kingdom. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, Lord of heaven and earth,
that you have fed us in a way our hearts can understand,
with the saving body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Enliven us by your presence in this meal,
that we may be your presence in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

May God the sower make you good and fertile soil.
May Christ the seed bloom and grow in your words and actions.
May the fruitful Spirit bring forth a bountiful yield in your lives.
God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG #576: *We All Are One in Mission

***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE: *'Trumpet Tune in C Major'* – David N. Johnson

The flowers this week are given by Cindy and Dave Knauff for the glory of God.

9:00 am

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Sally Foster

Attendance Last Week: 51

Attendance last year: 62

Weekly Budgeted Need : \$ 2,640.27

Last Week's Giving: \$ 3,313.00

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 84,488.62

Year to Date Receipts: \$ 93,261.50

YTD Actual Expense: \$ 76,608.97

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