



*<sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.*

*Matthew 18:20*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 7, 2014**

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Rev. Ralph Storm, Guest 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**

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 7, 2014**

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

**PRELUDE:** *Voluntary on 'Chereponi' – Mark Sedio*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the Sovereign over all the earth,  
the Wisdom from on high,  
our merciful Judge and Savior.  
**Amen.**

Let us boldly approach the throne of grace,  
trusting in God's mercy and love.

Generous and faithful God,  
**we confess to you all the ways,  
known and unknown,  
that we reject and undermine your steadfast love.**  
**Though you made us your people,  
we treat strangers with suspicion.**  
**Though you forgave our debts,  
we collect without mercy.**  
**Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others.**  
**Have mercy on us, O God,  
and remember your promise to us,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ,  
God forgives your every debt, your every sin,  
and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG #603: *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken***

#### **\*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.**

## \*GLORY TO GOD



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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7 –11 (page 802 in Old Testament)

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 119: 33-40**

1 Eternal Lord, teach me your way  
And I will follow for my part;  
Enable me to know your law  
Which I shall keep with all my heart.

3 Endow me, in your ways, with life,  
And turn my eyes from sin and shame;  
Establish now the promise, Lord,  
You make to those who fear your Name.

2 Engage my feet upon the path  
Of your commandments, hear my plea;  
Expel all love of unjust gain,  
Incline my heart to your decree.

4 Expose me not to dread reproach,  
For all your judgments, Lord, are right;  
Eternal God, preserve my life,  
For your commands are my delight.

*From: A New Metrical Psalter*

*Tune: Tallis' Canon (#565)*

**SECOND READING: Romans 13:8 – 14** (page 162 in New Testament)

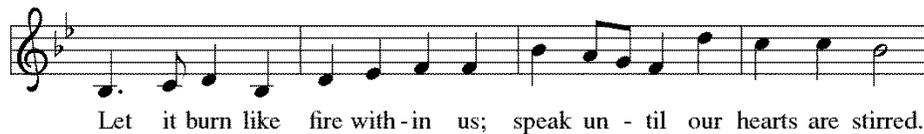
*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**\*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:15 - 20** (page 20 in New Testament)

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.*

<sup>15</sup>If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you,

so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #648: *Beloved, God's Chosen***

**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**

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 love, your church is a place of relationship. Give us understanding to care for you and each other with our whole hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, your creation is a precious gift. Turn our hearts to share its resources wisely rather than in selfish gain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, your desire for us is peace. Lead us along paths of justice and give us delight in living with honor and loving our neighbor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, your ways are goodness and life. Free us from those things that create fear and dread, loneliness and heartache, pain and disgrace especially we remember Robert, Tim, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you gather us around your word, your font, and your table. Teach us to be a community of grace and witness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, your promise to us is resurrection. Confirm in us that promise as we remember those who have died trusting in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN #691: Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring**

**\*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 betrayed,  
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

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 #656: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

### \*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior.

**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<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:4 – 7)

*All teachers in the congregation should rise.*

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 our giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

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

You may be seated.

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 understand, 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. (Ephesians 3:16 – 19)

*All those in Sunday School, bible studies and book clubs in the congregation should rise.*

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.

*Students, etc.: I will, and I ask God to help me.*

*\*The whole assembly stands*

I now ask you, people of St. John: 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.**

Will you claim these gifted teachers as called by God to help carry out our congregations ministry to children, youth and families? Will you support them, pray for them and in all things seek to support the work of loving God and loving each other. **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**\*BLESSING**

The blessing of almighty God,  
the Father of glory,  
+ Jesus Christ our peace,  
and the Spirit of truth,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

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

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Voluntary on 'Earth and Stars'* – Robert J. Powell

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

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Matt Claus

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:** Strabel

**Attendance Last Week:** 65

**Weekly Budgeted Need :** \$ 2,640.27

**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$ 89,769.15

**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 82,445.14

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Martha Ward

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:**

**Attendance last year:** 69

**Last Week's Giving:** \$ 2,040.50

**Year to Date Receipts:** \$ 96,555.00

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