



*“<sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”*

*Mark 9:35*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 20, 2015**

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor  
Jacob Gordon, 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**

#### **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 20, 2015**

*Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.*

**PRELUDE:** *Children of the Heavenly Father* – Robert Hobby

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
whose name is majestic in all the earth,  
who rescues and heals in every time of trouble,  
who does all things well.

**Amen.**

Let us come before God, seeking forgiveness and life.

Steadfast and saving God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess to you all the ways**

**we turn from you and harm one another.**

**In your compassion,**

**forgive our sins and heal our hurts.**

**Bring forth from us a harvest of righteousness,**

**the fruits of gentleness and peacemaking,**

**the sheaves of wisdom and justice;**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

In the name of + Jesus, the Son of God,

receive mercy and find grace in your time of need.

Your transgressions are forgiven;

God's love is healing balm for your wounds.

Rejoice, for God raises you up to new life in Christ.

**Amen.**

#### **\*GATHERING SONG #521: O Day of Rest and Gladness**

#### **\*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

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



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



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.



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.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**O God, our teacher and guide,  
you draw us to yourself**

**and welcome us as beloved children.**

**Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition,  
that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding  
as servants of your Son,**

**Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20**

*Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.*

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;  
then you showed me their evil deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb  
led to the slaughter.  
And I did not know it was against me  
that they devised schemes, saying,  
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,  
let us cut him off from the land of the living,  
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,  
who try the heart and the mind,  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

**PSALM 54**

*The cantor sings the refrain, and all repeat it.*

God is my help - er; it is the  
Lord who sus - tains my life.

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, | by your name;  
in your might, de- | fend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my | prayer, O God;**  
**give ear to the words | of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have | sought my life,  
those who have no re- | gard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God | is my helper;**  
**it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life. R**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who | spy on me;  
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>**I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice**  
**and praise your name, O LORD, for | it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from | every trouble,  
and my eye looks down | on my enemies. **R**

**SECOND READING: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a**

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then

peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8a</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*The cantor sings the Alleluias, and all repeat them.*



*Verse (cantor):* God has called us through the proclamation of the good news that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess. 2:14)

**\*GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:30-37**

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON  
SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #781: Children of the Heavenly Father**

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF TEACHERS**

*Those being commissioned for ministry with children and youth come to the front of the sanctuary. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

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 and youth, ministries of this congregation.  
Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry  
in the confidence that it comes from God?  
*Response:* 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?  
*Response:* 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?  
*Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

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.**

*Those being commissioned face the assembly.*  
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 and youth?  
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.**

*The presiding minister continues.*

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.**

*People in the assembly may raise their hands in blessing as the presiding minister continues.*

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.

*The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.*

**\*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 confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Gracious God, we pray for the church in its many expressions. Give it the gift of discernment to know what is needed and the humility to ask for what is necessary. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for another year of harvests, for farmers, gardeners, farmers markets, and community gardens. Teach us to share the earth's abundance with all who hunger. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders of all nations. Take away selfish ambition, conflicts, and disputes, and guide leaders to work for the good of all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those affected by shortened daylight hours, for those who struggle with envy, and for those who suffer from impulses that are at war within them. We pray for all those in any kind of need, especially Susan, Frieda, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, and those we remember aloud and in our hearts. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for children in this congregation and community. Give them compassionate and patient families, caregivers, mentors, teachers, and friends. Assure them that Jesus is always with them and loves them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints and all those who have seasoned our lives of faith. Preserve us in faith until we join them in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY HYMN #712: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

*(Please stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.)*

**\*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.**

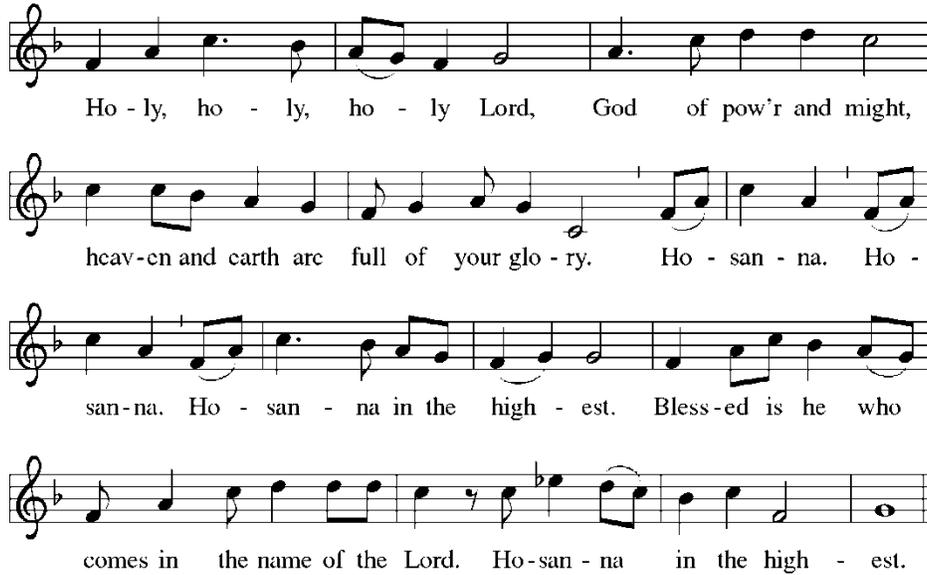
**\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also 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'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

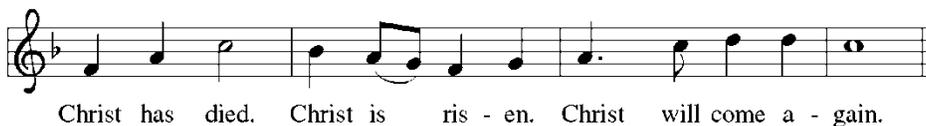
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
 his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
 and the promise of his coming again,  
 we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
 not as we ought but as we are able;  
 we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
 and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
 and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
 so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
 may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
 and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
 may be formed to live as your holy people  
 and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



**\*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**

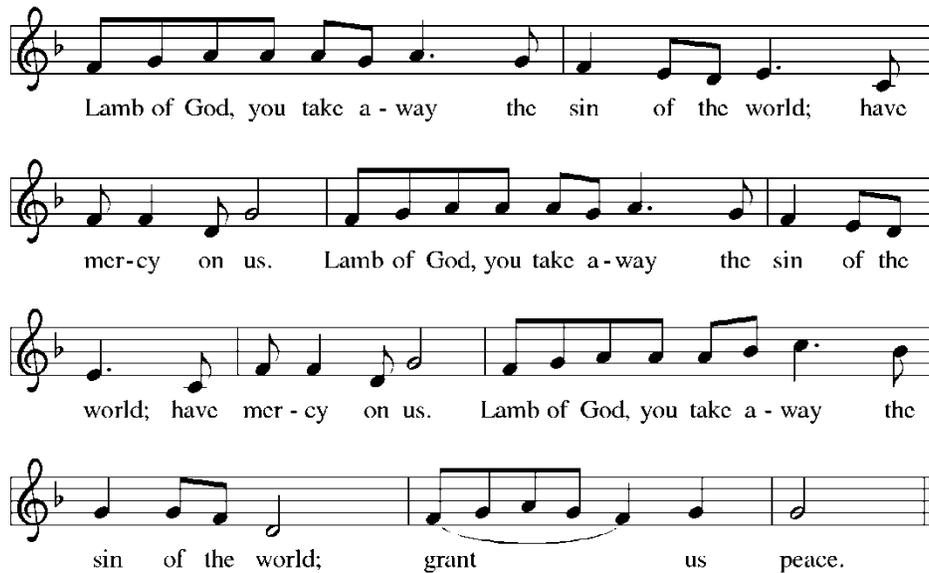
God gives food to those who hunger.  
 Come, be fed, be healed.

*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**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
 The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God***



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.

**COMMUNION HYMN #595: *Jesus Loves Me!***

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
We give you thanks, O God,  
that you welcome us to your table  
and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst.  
By your gifts of word and holy meal,  
strengthen us to take up the cross  
as we go about our callings in this world,  
following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord. **Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

Like children in the arms of Jesus, receive blessing:  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #815: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light***

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE: *O Day of Rest and Gladness* – J. Wayne Kerr**

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The flowers this week are given by Cindy & Dave Knauff in thanks for beautiful September days.

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Matt Claus

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Usher:** Bill Schulz

**Attendance Last Week:** 112

(includes Installation Svc.)

**Weekly Budgeted Need:** \$ 2,755.44

**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$104,706.81

**YTD Actual Expense:** \$100,331.70

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Usher:**

**Attendance Last Year:**

**Last Week's Giving:**

**YTD Receipts:**

**Martha Ward**

**Sally Foster**

**Jim Ward**

36

\$ 7,594.00

\$101,538.29

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