



“[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!”

Luke 12:49

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 14, 2016

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*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. 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 response sare in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 14, 2016

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in the holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

Today we commemorate Maximilian Kolbe and Kaj Munk, martyrs. Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. Munk, a Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

PRELUDE: *We Place upon Your Table, Lord* – Philip M. Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
abounding in steadfast love toward us,
healing the sick and raising the dead,
showering us with every good gift.

Amen.

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

Silence for reflection.

Just and gracious God,
we come to you for healing and life.
Our sins hurt others and diminish us;
we confess them to you.
Our lives bear the scars of sin;
we bring these also to you.
Show us your mercy, O God.
Bind up our wounds,
forgive us our sins,
and free us to love,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

The apostle Paul assures us:
“When we were dead in our trespasses,
God made us alive together with Christ,
nailing the record of our sins to the cross.”
Jesus says to you, + “Your sins are forgiven.”
Be at peace, and tell everyone
how much God has done for you. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG #713: O God of Every Nation**

***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**



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☒ 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.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



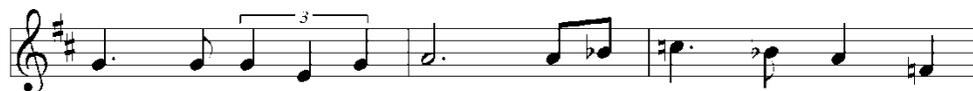
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☒ 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, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.
 (I) For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 (II) 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.
 ☩ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**O God, judge eternal,
 you love justice and hate oppression,
 and you call us to share your zeal for truth.
 Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed,
 and, following your servants and prophets,
 to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah:23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³Am I a God nearby, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people

forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 82

*The cantor sings the refrain and all repeat it. The congregation sings the verses in **bold**.*



¹God stands to charge the divine coun- | cil assembled,
giving judgment in the midst | of the gods:

²**“How long will you | judge unjustly,
and show favor | to the wicked?”**

³Save the weak | and the orphan;
defend the hum- | ble and needy;

⁴**rescue the weak | and the poor;
deliver them from the power | of the wicked. R**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander a- | bout in darkness;
all the foundations of the | earth are shaken.

⁶**Now I say to you, | ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of | the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall | die like mortals,
and fall like | any prince.’ ”

⁸**Arise, O God, and | rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations | for your own. R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:49-56

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:]⁴⁹“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #805: *Lead On, O King Eternal!

*APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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**

Rooted in Christ and rising to serve, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God near to us, increase your people's passion to share how Christ transforms lives. Raise up prophets in your church, Lord, to interpret the word and the world today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, we pray for scorched places that need rain, those recovering from disaster, and those needing balance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of power, administer justice. Pour your spirit of compassion and mercy into those who hold the lives of others in their hands. We pray for all who are persecuted or imprisoned for their beliefs. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, save us from being overwhelmed by addictions, medical conditions, competition, and fear. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Jane, David & Ellen, and those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give wisdom to our community, Lord. Help us discern your will for our life and ministry together, even when it may divide or challenge us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you, O God, for the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us. Gather us with Maximilian Kolbe and Kaj Munk, martyrs of the church; Fred Smith; Viola Zimmerman; and all the saints around your throne on the last day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN #739: Touch the Earth Lightly**

All 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 - er and
might, heav - en 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, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, 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

Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet.
Welcome to the feast.

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*

☐ 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 #467: *We Place Upon Your Table, Lord*

***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.
O God, as a mother comforts her child,
so you comfort your people,
carrying us in your arms
and satisfying us with this food and drink,
the body and blood of Christ.
Send us now as your disciples,
announcing peace and proclaiming
that the reign of God has come near;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

***SENDING OF COMMUNION**

O God of tender compassion,
as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger,
bless those who leave this assembly
to share the gifts of this table
with our sisters and brothers
who are sick or homebound.
May they be sustained by the love and prayers
of this community,
and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and+ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG #876: *Let the Whole Creation Cry

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Let the Whole Creation Cry* – Gerald Near

The flowers this week are given by Katie & Todd Niklewicz in honor of Emma's 7th birthday and Ava's 3rd birthday.

9:00 am

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Cardinal Family

Attendance Last Week: 36 **Attendance Last Year:** 57

Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14 **Last Two Week's Giving:** \$ 7,601.58

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$94,475.82 **YTD Receipts:** \$93,526.84

YTD Actual Expense: \$86,099.02

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