



*“<sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup>And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

*Luke 14:13-14*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 28, 2016**

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Jacob Gordon, Director of Music Ministries

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

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 28, 2016**

*Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at the banquet table of the Lord. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.*

**Today we commemorate** Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, and Moses the Black, monk and martyr.

*Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo in present day Algeria.*

*Moses the Black converted from a life as a thief and robber to Christianity. He was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. His conversion had a great impact in his native country. Wearing a white habit, he said, “God knows I am black within.” He was murdered during an attack by Berbers.*

**PRELUDE:** *Gather Us In* – John A. Behnke

### **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 #641: All are Welcome**

**\*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**



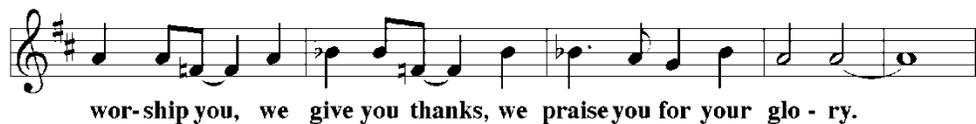
☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



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



☒ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al- migh- t- 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.  
 ☩ 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.  
 ☩ 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,**  
**you resist those who are proud**  
**and give grace to those who are humble.**  
**Give us the humility of your Son,**  
**that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ,**  
**our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Proverbs: 25:6-7**

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

<sup>6</sup>Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
 or stand in the place of the great;  
<sup>7</sup>for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
 than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 112

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



The righ-teous are mer-ci-ful and full of com - pas-sion.

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD  
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;**  
**the generation of the upright | will be blessed.** R

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be | in their house,  
and their righteousness will | last forever.

<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;**  
**the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending  
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup>**For they will nev- | er be shaken;**  
**the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.** R

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established and | will not shrink,**  
**until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;  
they will hold up their | head with honor.

<sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;**  
**the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.** R

## SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. <sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup>Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to 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 14:1, 7-14

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to mimic God's gracious hospitality to the poor and the broken.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup>When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup>“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup>and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup>He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup>And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

*The children come forward wearing their backpacks.*

A Reading from Mark:

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:13–16)

Let us pray,  
Dear God,  
as we get ready to start another year in school,  
we ask your blessing on these backpacks,  
and especially on these children who will wear them.

As they do the very important work of being students,  
bless them with:  
    eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large;  
    respect for teachers and students,  
that they may form healthy relationships;  
    love for nature,  
    that they may become caretakers of your creation;  
    happiness when learning is easy  
    and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard;  
    faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.

We ask that you would protect these, your own children.  
Watch over them and keep them safe  
as they travel to and from school.

As they learn, help them also to discover  
the different gifts that you have given each one of them  
to be used in your work in the world.

As they hear the many voices that will fill their days,  
help them to listen most carefully for your voice,  
the one that tells them you will love them always,  
no matter what.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

And all God's people say, **Amen.**

## **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #532: *Gather Us In***

### **\*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.

O God, guide leaders who speak your word to your people. Use your church's powerful witness and genuine invitation to welcome all to your banquet table. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for tables of abundant food. Bless crops, farms, and industries, that as co-creators with you, we may provide responsibly from the earth for the sake of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Break the bonds of captivity and injustice. Work in leaders and nations to bring peace and to advocate for the least of these. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal and comfort those we hold in our hearts, and those digging out from the earthquake in Italy and flooding in Louisiana, and for those who have asked for our prayers. We pray especially for Raymond, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Bring hope to prisoners, refugees, and outsiders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Strengthen marriages, families, and friendships with mutual love and respect. Bless our congregation to be a place of support and care for healthy relationships. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing in the promise of the heavenly banquet, we give thanks for all those who have died in faith, especially Marietta Zidanic (sister of Dave Knauff), Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, and Moses the Black, martyr. Join us, with them, at the resurrection of the righteous. 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 #849: *Yours, Lord, is the Glory***

*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***

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: '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.' The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes on the staves.

**COMMUNION HYMN #462: *Now We Join in Celebration***

**\*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 #547: *Sent Forth by God’s Blessing***

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE: *Sent Forth by God’s Blessing* – Frank Stoldt**

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**The flowers this week are given by Janet Senka in memory of her brother, John J. Closshey.**

**9:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Missy Kramer

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:** Cardinal Family

**Attendance Last Week:** 50 **Attendance Last Year:** 68

**Weekly Budgeted Expense:** \$ 3,374.14 **Last Week’s Giving:** \$ 2,421.02

**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$118,094.77 **YTD Receipts:** \$97,439.55

**YTD Actual Expense:** \$107,027.47

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