



“³⁵Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit...⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – August 7, 2016

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

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

HOLY COMMUNION

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – August 7, 2016

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

PRELUDE: *In Heavenly Love Abiding* – Michael Cox

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 #771: *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

***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.

Almighty God,

you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church.

Open our hearts to the riches of your grace,

that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

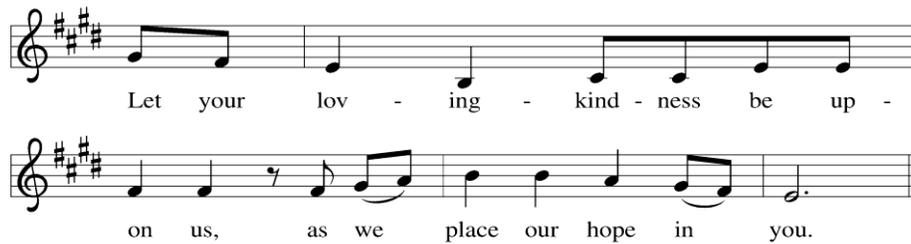
¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33

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



¹²Happy is the nation whose God | is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to | be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks | down from heaven,
and sees all | humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly en- | throned and watches
all who dwell | on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions | all their hearts
and observes | all their deeds.**

R

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size | of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by | their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain |hope for victory;
despite its great strength it | cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear | you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their | lives from death,
and to keep them alive in | time of famine.**

R

²⁰Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,
our helper | and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,
for in your holy name we | put our trust.**

²²Let your loving kindness, O LORD, | be upon us,
even as we place our | hope in you.

R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:]³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #856: *How Great Thou Art

***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.

Faithful God, encourage your church in new ventures of faith: new congregations, ministries, conversations, and partnerships. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the abundance of your creation fills us with awe and delight. Call us daily to be vigilant and responsible stewards of all you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, calm the fears that produce wars, prejudice, and injustice. Equip governments, leaders, and peacemakers to be models of cooperation and reconciliation among the nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restoring God, comfort all who long for relief from circumstances of grief or sickness. Bless hospitals, mental health facilities, and all places of healing. We pray especially for Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, those helping them, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, we pray for those in life transitions that bring anxiety. Heal those hurt by broken promises, and sustain them with your never-ending love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for all the saints who now enjoy unfailing treasure in heaven, especially for Richard Augustine, and we rejoice that we are united with them in your love. 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 #764: *Have No Fear, Little Flock

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'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, 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*



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 #624: *Jesus, Still Lead On*

***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 #774: *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Variations on CORONATION* – Oliver Holden

The flowers this week are given by Erin & Jamie Weaver in celebration of Denise Hager's birthday.

9:00 am

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer

Communion Assistant:

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Cardinal Family

Attendance Last Week: 48

Attendance Last Year: 57

Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14

Last Week's Giving:

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$107,972.36

YTD Receipts: \$ 85,925.26

YTD Actual Expense: \$100,216.58

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