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*“<sup>38</sup>Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying.”*

*Luke 10:38-39*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – July 17, 2016**

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Rev. Ralph Kusserow, Guest 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**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – July 17, 2016**

*Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” Almighty God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”— to heed the word from above. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, with Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the words of life.*

*Today we commemorate the missionary, **Bartolome de Las Casas**. A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Granted a large estate with indigenous slaves, he freed them after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.*

**PRELUDE:** *Day by Day* – J. Bert Carlson

### **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 #853: *When Morning Gilds the Skies***

**\*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**

**I** 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.

**II** 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.

**I** 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.

**III** 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.  
 ① For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 ② 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.

**Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ,  
and you make yourself our guest.**

**Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence,  
that we may treasure your word above all else,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10a**

*The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long—awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day.

<sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.”

<sup>6</sup>And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” <sup>7</sup>Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to

prepare it. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” <sup>10a</sup>Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 15

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



Lord, who may dwell in your tab - er - na - cle?  
Who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
who speak the truth | from their heart; R**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

## SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-28

*Sometimes Paul preaches with great attention to theological concepts. Here, however, Paul offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

<sup>15</sup>[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup>And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—<sup>23</sup>provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

<sup>24</sup>I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup>I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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 10:38-42**

*Jesus uses his visit to two sisters as an occasion to remind disciples that an important aspect of obedience is singleminded devotion to Jesus and his word.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup>But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; <sup>42</sup>there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #793: *Be Thou My Vision***

**\*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.

You open the doors of your church, Lord, to all who feel distant or estranged. Give us courage to share your good news through conversation and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Cultivate in all people a care for the world you have made. Make us mindful of our impact on creation for the good of our neighbor and future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile and bring peace to communities that suffer. Raise up and strengthen leaders and organizations that promote dialogue, hospitality, and restoration. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Open our eyes to see those suffering any affliction, even ourselves. Open our lips to boldly beg relief in body or spirit for all in need. We pray especially for Anne, Sally, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless and keep safe campers, counselors, and families who experience the gift of outdoor ministry at camps this summer. Continue transforming them in Christ once they are safely home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort your children with the trust that your word is stronger than death. We remember saints and loved ones who have died and rest in you, especially the missionary Bartolomé de Las Casas. 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 #790: *Day by Day***

*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 #754: Jesus, the Very Thought of You**

**\*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: *Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go***

1. Forth in your name, O Lord, I go  
 2. The task your wis - dom has as - signed  
 3. You may I set at my right hand,  
 4. Help me to bear your eas - y yoke,  
 5. Then with de - light may I em - ploy

my dai - ly la - bor to pur - sue  
 here let me cheer - ful - ly ful - fill  
 whose eyes my in - most se - crets - view,  
 in ev' - ry mo - ment watch and pray,  
 all that your boun - teous grace has giv'n,

you on - ly, Lord, re - solved to know  
 in all my work your pres - ence find  
 and la - bor on your at - tence com - mand  
 and still to things e - ter - nal look  
 and run my earth - ly course with joy,

in all I think or speak or do.  
 and prove your good and per - fect will.  
 and of - fer all my work to you.  
 and has - ten to that glo - rious day.  
 and close - ly walk with you to heav'n.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *When Morning Gilds the Skies* – Robert Lind**

**The flowers this week are given by Cindy & Dave Knauff in memory of our parents.**

**9:00 am**

**Assisting Minister: Kelly Greb**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher: Clarence Strabel**

<b>Attendance Last Week:</b>	43	<b>Attendance Last Year:</b>	69
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<b>Weekly Budgeted Expense:</b>	\$ 3,374.14	<b>Last Week's Giving:</b>	\$ 3,986.00
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<b>YTD Budgeted Expenses:</b>	\$94,475.82	<b>YTD Receipts:</b>	\$ 82,811.26
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<b>YTD Actual Expense:</b>	\$86,099.02		
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*Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go* – text by Charles Wesley, alt., music: DUKE STREET, by John Hatton.