



“¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18:14

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – October 23, 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 responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost – October 23, 2016

Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people—"all who have longed for his appearing"—shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For all this the assembly glorifies God forever.

Today we commemorate James of Jerusalem, martyr. One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

PRELUDE: *Out of the Depths I Cry to You* – Nancy Raabe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the only Sovereign, who dwells in light;
Christ Jesus, who came to save sinners;
the Holy Spirit, who lives within us.

Amen.

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

God of overflowing grace,

we come to you with repentant hearts.

Forgive us for shallow thankfulness.

Forgive us for passing by the ones in need.

Forgive us for setting our hopes on fleeting treasures.

Forgive us our neglect and thoughtlessness.

Bring us home from the wilderness of sin,

and strengthen us to serve you

in all that we do and say;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

There is joy in heaven over every sinner who repents.

By the grace of God in † Christ Jesus,

who gave himself up for us all,

your sins are forgiven and you are made free.

Rejoice with the angels and with one another!

We are home in God's mercy, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG #893: *Before You Lord, We Bow

***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.



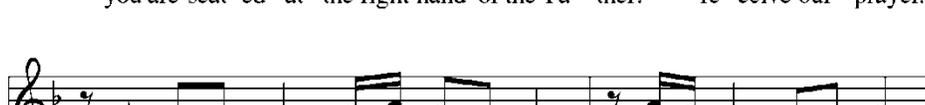
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



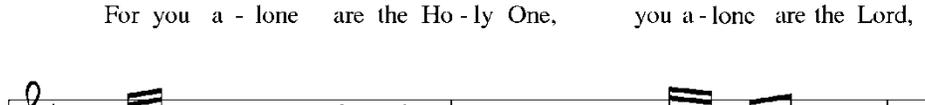
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



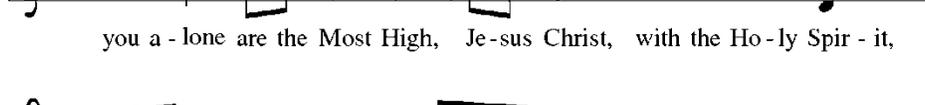
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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.

**Holy God, our righteous judge,
daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness.
Strengthen our hope in you,
and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God's power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.

⁷Although our iniquities testify against us,
act, O LORD, for your name's sake;
our apostasies indeed are many,
and we have sinned against you.
⁸O hope of Israel,
its savior in time of trouble,
why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler turning aside for the night?
⁹Why should you be like someone confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?
Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
do not forsake us!
¹⁰Thus says the LORD concerning this people:
Truly they have loved to wander,
they have not restrained their feet;
therefore the LORD does not accept them,
now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins.
¹⁹Have you completely rejected Judah?
Does your heart loathe Zion?
Why have you struck us down
so that there is no healing for us?
We look for peace, but find no good;
for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.
²⁰We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,
the iniquity of our ancestors,
for we have sinned against you.
²¹Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;
do not dishonor your glorious throne;
remember and do not break your covenant with us.
²²Can any idols of the nations bring rain?
Or can the heavens give showers?
Is it not you, O LORD our God?
We set our hope on you,
for it is you who do all this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84



1. How love - ly, Lord, how love - ly is Your a - bid - ing place;
2. In Your blest courts to wor - ship, O God, a sin - gle day
3. A sun and shield for - ev - er are You, O Lord Most High;



my soul is long - ing, faint - ing, to feast up - on Your grace.
is bet - ter than a thou - sand if I from You should stray.
you show - er us with bless - ings; no good will You de - ny.



The spar - row finds a shel - ter, a place to build her nest;
I'd rath - er keep the en - trance and claim You as my Lord
The saints, Your grace re - ceiv - ing, from strength to strength shall go,



and so Your tem - ple calls us with - in its walls to rest.
than rev - el in the rich - es the ways of sin af - ford.
and from their life shall riv - ers of bless - ing o - ver - flow.

SECOND READING: 2Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who is now facing death. Though others have let him down, Paul is sure of his faith in the Lord, who has stood by him and lent him strength.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 18: 9-14**

The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #600: *Out of the Depths I Cry to You

***APOSTLES’ 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**

Set free by the truth of God’s gracious love, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s good creation.

Only you are righteous, O God. Lead your church to true repentance so that we reflect your light and truth to the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Only you can bring rain, O God. Be with those who lack clean water or must walk miles to quench their thirst. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Only you can judge the nations, O God. Raise up leaders with humble hearts so that your peace spreads across the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Only you can bring healing, O God. Be with all whose hearts ache, who hold out empty hands, who long for forgiveness. Comfort the grieving and heal the sick. We pray especially for Jim & Davena, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, 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.**

Only you know the depths of our hearts, O God. Call this congregation to loving action in your name and open our eyes to what you are doing among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Those who live in your house are happy, O God. Keep us by your grace until we join James of Jerusalem, martyr, and all the saints around your throne. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, faithful God, we place ourselves and our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #801: *Change My Heart, O God (sung twice)

All stand for the final refrain as the gifts are brought forward.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills
were gathered together to become one bread,
so let your church be gathered together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

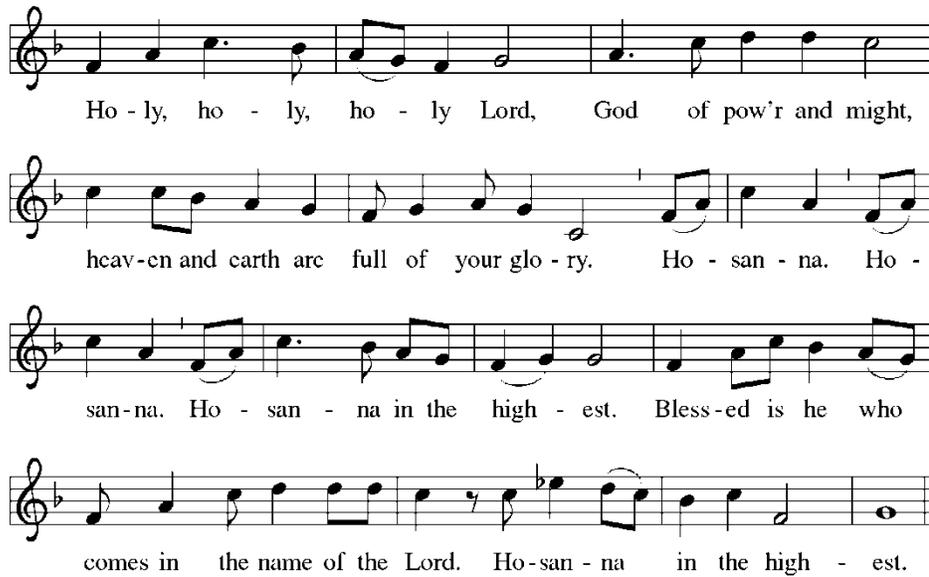
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:



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.

Holy God,
 our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
 you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
 You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
 and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
 You sent your Son to eat with sinners
 and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us
 and his rising from the grave,
 we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
 strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
 and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church,
 both now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Take hold of the life that really is life.
Come, take your place at the table.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN #749: *O God of Love, O God of Peace*

***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.

We come again to you, O God,
giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy
you have embraced us and healed us,
making us one in the body of Christ.

Go with us on our way.

Equip us for every good work,
that we may continue to give you thanks
by embracing others with mercy and healing;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are sick and homebound.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,
and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

God Almighty send you light and truth
to keep you all the days of your life.

The hand of God protect you;
the holy angels accompany you;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you now and forever.

Amen.

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

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Before You, Lord, We Bow – Healey Willan

The flowers this week are given by Anne & Chuck Olescyski in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister:
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:

Dave Knauff

Todd Niklewicz

10:30 am

Assisting Minister:
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:

Sally Foster
Denise Hager

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How Lovely, Lord – text: Psalm 84, para. Arlo D. Duba; music: MERLE’S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson. Text © 1986, music © 1983 by Hope Publishing Company. CCLI License #3219012.