



¹⁰*“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.”*

Luke 16:10

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 18, 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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 18, 2016

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recall that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

*Today we commemorate Dag Hammarskjöld who died in 1961. Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.*

PRELUDE: *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* – Emma Lou Diemer

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 #717: *Let Justice Flow Like Streams

***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.



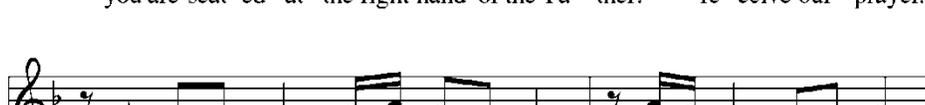
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



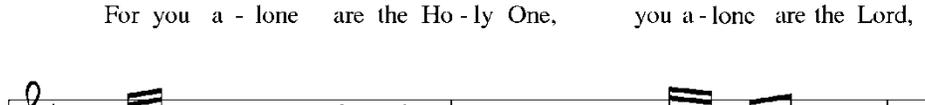
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



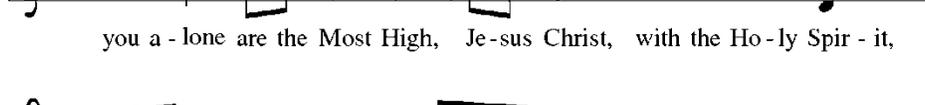
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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.

WORD

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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God among us,

we gather in the name of your Son

to learn love for one another.

Keep our feet from evil paths.

Turn our minds to your wisdom

and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos: 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113



1. Praise the Lord! Praise, you ser-vants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!
2. Praise the Lord! Thanks and prais-es sing to God, day by day to the Lord!
3. Praise the Lord! Praise and glo-ry give to God: who is like un-to him?
4. Praise the Lord! Praise, you ser-vants of the Lord, praise the love of the Lord.



Bless-ed be the name of the Lord! Bless-ed be the name of the Lord from
High a - bove the na - tions is God, high a - bove the na - tions is God, his
Rais - ing up the poor from the dust, rais - ing up the poor from the dust, he
Giv - ing to the home - less a home, giv - ing to the home - less a home, he



this time forth and for - ev - er - more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
glo - ry high o - ver earth and sky. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
makes them dwell in his heart and home. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
fills their hearts with new hope and joy. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY #655: *Son of God, Eternal Savior

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF TEACHERS

Those being commissioned for ministry with children and youth come to the front of the sanctuary. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

A reading from First Corinthians.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor.12:4-7)

Brothers and sisters,
you have volunteered your time, your energy, and your gifts
to the children and youth, ministries of this congregation.
Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry
in the confidence that it comes from God?
Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

A reading from Proverbs.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths. (Prov. 3:5-6)

Will you carry out this ministry centered in Christ's call,
striving to trust God as your guide and inspiration?
Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

A reading from Ephesians.

I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being
with power through God's Spirit,
and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.
I pray that you may have the power to comprehend,
with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16-19)

Will you trust in God's care,
seek to grow in love for those you serve,
strive for excellence in your skills,
and honor the gospel with a faithful life?
Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

I now ask you, people of St. John:

Will you today renew your commitment to our youngest brothers and sisters,
our children and youth who look to you for guidance, support, and examples of righteous living?
We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being commissioned face the assembly.

People of St. John:

Will you claim these gifted people as those called by God
to help carry out our congregation's ministry to children and youth?
Will you support them and enthusiastically celebrate the work they do?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Will you pray for these leaders and the young people they serve,
celebrating our children and youth as the ones Jesus blessed and welcomed?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

The presiding minister continues.

Let us pray. Gracious God, for Jesus' sake,
empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith.
Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently.

Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

People in the assembly may raise their hands in blessing as the presiding minister continues.

Almighty God,
who has given you the gifts and the will to do these things,
graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

Amen.

On behalf of St. John Lutheran Church,
we now commission you for ministry,
grateful for your gifts and your willingness to serve.

The assembly may offer acclamation with applause.

***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**

Rejoicing in the Spirit's work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Giver of the feast, bless your church and all who hunger and thirst. Nourish us richly with your word and meal, and send us as signs of your living presence in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the earth, bring forth an abundant harvest from fields, orchards, and gardens. Renew fields that will soon lie fallow. Feed and protect all wild creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, we pray for places in the world affected by conflict, war, and turmoil. We pray that your perfect peace and order be restored. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our weary years, we remember before you those among us who are sick or who are recovering from illness or surgery and for those who have asked for our prayers. We pray especially for Wanda Jean, Jim & Davena, Raymond, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Jane, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our beginning and ending, we thank you for hope even in the midst of despair. Visit this assembly with your light and truth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our silent tears, we remember the faithful departed who make up the great cloud of witnesses, especially Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, whom we commemorate today. Gather us all in praise around your throne. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **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 #686: *We Give Thee but Thine Own

All stand for the final stanza 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.

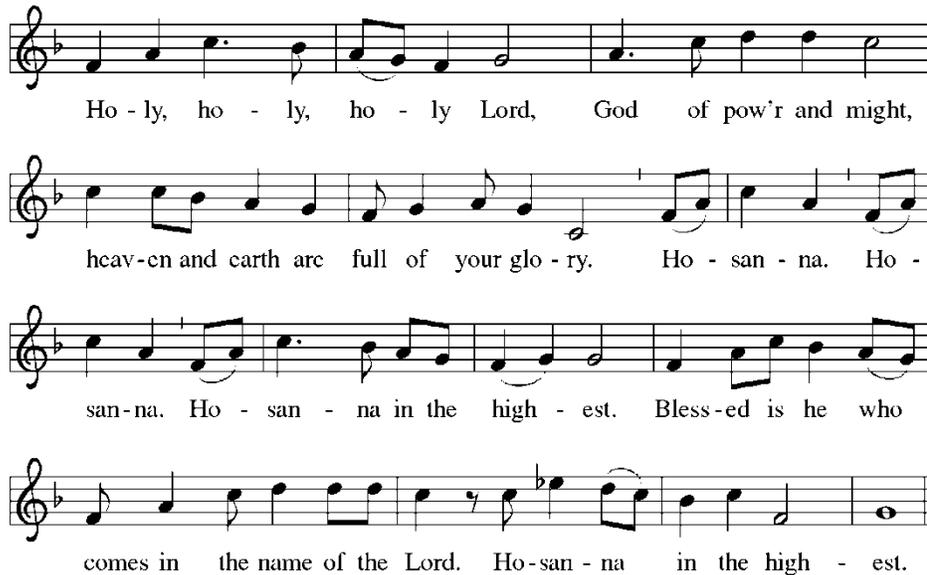
Lift up your hearts.

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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 #793: *Be Thou My Vision*

***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**

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**

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 #669: *Rise Up, O Saints of God!

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Son of God, Eternal Savior* – Wilbur Held

The flowers this week are given by Sally Foster in memory of Rehanna Lydon.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Matt Claus
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Bill Schulz
Attendance Last Week: 49
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$128,217.18
YTD Actual Expense: \$121,287.34

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward
Communion Assistant: Valerie Cardinal
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:
Attendance Last Year: 112
Last Week's Giving: \$ 1,905.00
YTD Receipts: \$105,756.30

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