



“²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 14:27

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 4, 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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 4, 2016

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

PRELUDE: *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said* – Wendy Lynn Stevens

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 #660: Lift High the Cross**

***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-might- 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;



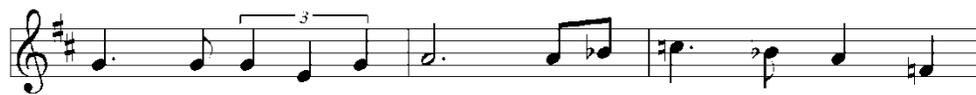
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ 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.

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord God,

in all our doings with your continual help,

that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you,

we may glorify your holy name;

and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy: 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land

that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

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



Like a tree that's plant-ed by the wa - ter, they shall not be moved.

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.** R

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.** R

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

While Paul was in prison, he was aided by a runaway slave named Onesimus. The slave's master, Philemon, was a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to his master and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, ²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the fearsome costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY #667: Take Up Your Cross

*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**

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

Let us pray for all congregations gathered around the word and sacraments, that they be strengthened in their discipleship through these means of grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the creation, that it thrives and flourishes. Make us good stewards of the land with all its vegetation, mammals, birds, and creatures of all kinds. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who lead and direct us: for elected officials, school boards, pastors, bishops, trustees, councils, ministry teams, business owners, judges, and community organizers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for refugees, immigrants, prisoners, and all who seek new life. Show life and prosperity to those who struggle with injury or illness 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. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our congregation and community, that they be safe places for all, especially the young and mature. Revive and refresh our hearts as we receive the forgiveness of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us remember with thanksgiving the dearly departed who rest from their labors. Instruct us by their witness and bring us, with them, into the promised land. 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 the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN #583: *Take My Life, That I May Be

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) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words underlined. 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.'

COMMUNION HYMN #810: O Jesus, I Have Promised

***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.**

AFFIRMATION OF VOCATION

Dear Christian friends:

Baptized into the priesthood of Christ,
we are all called by the Holy Spirit
to offer ourselves to the Lord of all creation
in thanksgiving for all that God has done and continues to do for us.
It is our privilege to affirm those who are endeavoring
to carry out their vocation as Christians in the world.

A representative of the congregation says:

Through holy baptism God has set us free from sin
and made us members of the priesthood we share in Christ Jesus.
Through word and sacrament we have been nurtured in faith,
that we may give praise to God
and bear God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly

People of God, both your work and your rest are in God.
Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ,
in gratitude to God and in service to others,
at morning and evening, at work and at play,
all the days of your life?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Let us pray,
Almighty God,
by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants
into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name.
Give them courage, patience, and vision;
and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation
of witness to the world and of service to others;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The assisting minister addresses the assembly with these or similar words:

Go out into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve our God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The presiding minister blesses the assembly:

The almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG #731: *Earth and All Stars!

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Earth and All Stars!* – Robert J. Powell

The flowers this week are given by Cindy & Dave Knauff for the glory of God.

9:00 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward

Communion Assistant: Valerie Cardinal

Acolyte:

Lector:

Usher: Bill Schulz

Attendance Last Week: 44 **Attendance Last Year:** 64

Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,374.14 **Last Week's Giving:** \$ 2,247.00

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$121,468.91 **YTD Receipts:** \$99,686.55

YTD Actual Expense: \$117,010.32

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