



“¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

~Matthew 22:14

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – October 15, 2017

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Matt Claus, Pianist

*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? 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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – October 15, 2017

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Today we commemorate Teresa of Avila (Teresa de Jesus), teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582.

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

PRELUDE: *Hymn to Peace* – David Paxton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the † holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
Source of all life,

**We confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.**

We fear that we are not good enough.

**We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.**

Forgive us. Stir us.

**Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,**

**act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.**

Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven,

† God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #362: *At the Lamb's High Feast (Vs. 1-4)

***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 in the high -
est, 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. 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.
Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Lord of the feast,

**you have prepared a table before all peoples
and poured out your life with abundance.**

Call us again to your banquet.

**Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure,
and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25: 1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing everyone up—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;

the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23



¹The LORD| is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

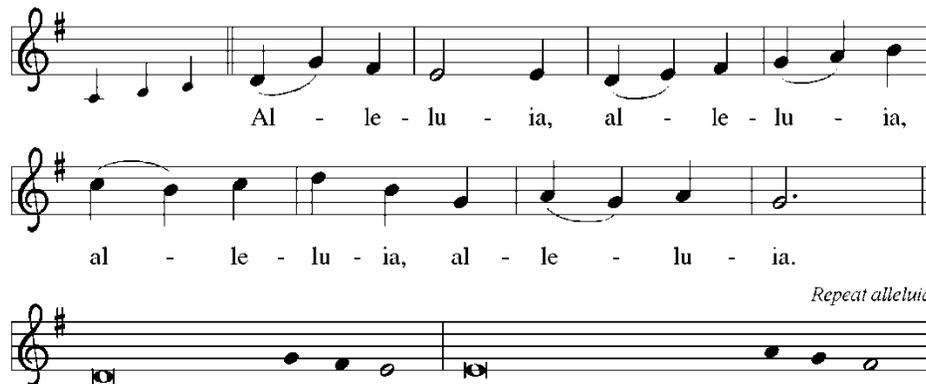
⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 3:21-24

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22: 1-4**

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #589: *All Depends on Our Possessing

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

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

You rejoice in your church, gracious God. Welcome your children to the table you have prepared and send us forth to share the saving mercy we meet in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rejoice in your good creation. Provide moisture for parched places, wind and sun for flooded lands, and shelter and sustenance for creatures of every kind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You rejoice in the people and places of the world. We pray for nations who cannot sit at table together, for leaders distracted by anxiety and fear, and for refugees unwelcome in their homelands. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You bring peace that surpasses understanding. We pray for all who cannot worship with us this day: those who are homebound, hospitalized, or working especially, Jeff, Jim, Dan, Bill, Francis & Grace, 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.**

You rejoice in this congregation. We pray for its ministries of hospitality: for ushers, greeters, wedding coordinators, and all who welcome guests in this place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of grace, help us respond during this special time by giving generously as followers of Jesus and in gratitude for all that you have given us. Help us to discern our own gifts and talents so that we may share them with others in a spirit of thanksgiving and generosity. Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

You promise an eternal feast. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place especially Teresa of Avila, whom we commemorate today. Hold us in communion with them until all are united at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit. **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 #678: *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

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

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,

Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving

what you have first given us – ourselves, our time,

and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: 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. Blessed 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 in remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it to 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 in 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**

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

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 #462: *Now We Join in Celebration*

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends 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, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG #362: *At the Lamb’s High Feast

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* – William J. Kirkpatrick

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Todd Niklewicz
Attendance Last Week: 59
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,185.02
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 127,400.72
YTD Actual Expense: \$ 125,138.09

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Sally Foster
Communion Assistant: Valerie Cardinal
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Leikauf’s
Attendance Last Year: 58
Last Week’s General Giving: \$ 3,332.63
Last Week’s Designated Giving: \$ 474.87
YTD Receipts: \$ 123,807.15