



“²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

~Matthew 18:20

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 10, 2017

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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? 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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 10, 2017

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

PRELUDE: *O Lord Most Holy* – Franz Abt

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 #836: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

***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.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

Without your help, we mortals will fail;

remove far from us everything that is harmful,

and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33: 7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40



³³**Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.**

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵**Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.**

³⁶**Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. R**

³⁷**Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.**

³⁸**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹**Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.**

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18: 15-20**

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY #716: *Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

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.**

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

We pray for the church universal. Reconcile our differences. Forgive our divisions. Unite us at your table. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For your creation. Increase our stewardship of all that you have given to us. Let the earth flourish for those who come after us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For peace in the world. End conflicts among nations. Help leaders and citizens truly to listen to one another and to act for the good of all. Teach us by your example. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all those in need. Bind up our hurts. Heal divisions in our families, friendships, and neighborhoods. Comfort those who need your special care, especially Jeff, Jim, Dan, Bill, Raymond, 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.**

For this congregation. Make us signs of your love and forgiveness in this community and in the world. Help us to grow in our love for one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those in the path of storms and wildfires. Be present with those who try to make sense of their lives in the midst of destruction and debris. Grant shelter to all who have nowhere to go. Provide strength and safety to all first responders and aid workers. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In thanksgiving for all the faithful witnesses who put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Keep us faithful until the day we rejoice in your majesty with them. 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 #522: *As We Gather at Your Table

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

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,
God of life,
you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. **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-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*

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef, with lyrics written below each staff. 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." The music is a simple, melodic line with a steady rhythm.

COMMUNION HYMN #656: *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

***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.

***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 #731: *Earth and All Stars!

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Sound the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Festival* – Benton Price

The flowers this week are given by Cindy & Dave Knauff in gratitude for beautiful September days.

8:00 am

Assisting Minister:	Clarence Strabel
Communion Assistant:	Ruth Ann Tully
Acolyte:	
Lector:	
Usher:	Robert Dishong
Attendance Last Week:	54
Weekly Budgeted Expense:	\$ 3,185.02
YTD Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 111,475.63
YTD Actual Expense:	\$ 110,976.60

10:30 am

Assisting Minister:	Martha Ward
Communion Assistant:	James Ward
Acolyte:	
Lector:	
Usher:	Jamie Weaver
Attendance Last Year:	45
Last Week’s General Giving:	\$ 3,136.70
Last Week’s Designated Giving:	\$ 513.77
YTD Receipts:	\$ 108,571.31

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