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*“<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”*

*~Matthew 16:24-25*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 3, 2017**

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor

Carol Zimmerman, Organist

*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**

### **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 3, 2017**

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

**PRELUDE:** *Here I am, Lord* – Don Schutte, setting by John Carter

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **GATHERING**

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

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will**

**and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,

and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you  
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the † Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #624: *Jesus, Still Lead On***

**\*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**



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.  
**O God, we thank you for your Son,  
who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.  
Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience,  
and give us strength to follow your commands,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15: 15-21**

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words: "I am with you."*

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 26**

1. Give judgment, Lord, for I have lived  
With trust and honor all my days;  
O test me, Lord, and try my life:  
My heart and mind and all my ways.

2. I set your love before my eyes  
And walk in faithfulness with you;  
I have not sat with worthless folk  
Nor met with those who are not true.

3. The evildoers' company  
And wicked people, these I hate;  
I wash my hands in innocence  
And 'round your altar celebrate.

4. I sing aloud in thankfulness,  
Your wondrous deeds I will retell;  
I love your glory's resting-place,  
The house, Lord, where you choose to dwell.

### SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

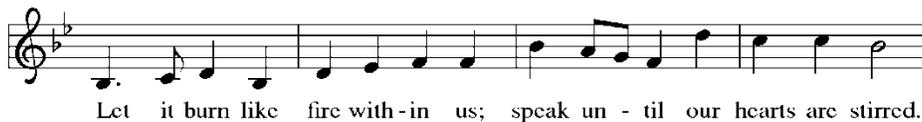
<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### \*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16: 21-28

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### SERMON

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #667: *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said***

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

### PRESENTATION

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated. The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:*

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Sponsors, present the candidate:* I present ***Ella Kay*** for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your child* baptized into Christ?

*Response:* I do.

As you bring *your child* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *her* among God's faithful people,  
bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in *her* hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture *her* in faith and prayer,  
so that *your child* may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your child* grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *this child* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support ***Ella Kay***, and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The presiding minister addresses parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

*Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **BAPTISM**

*The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:*

**Ella Kay**, I baptize you in the name of the Father,\*

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:*

and of the Son,

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:*

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughter new birth, cleanse her from sin, and raise her to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays for her:*

Sustain **Ella Kay** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

**Ella Kay**, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

*A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:*

Let your light so shine before others  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to God  
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

**HYMN #732: *Borning Cry***

*Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places.*

**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 and its mission. Make your church ready to lose its life for your sake. Unite it in service, sustain it in suffering, and let its love for others be genuine. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth and its well-being. Make us mindful of the gifts you have labored to give us, and inspire us to commit ourselves to their care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations and their leaders. Overcome evil with good. Show us how to live peaceably with all. Teach us how to love our enemies. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in any need. Provide for the hungry. Rescue the persecuted. Bless those who advocate for fair and safe working conditions and for just and livable wages, and for those battling illness of any kind, 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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community and its ministry. Move us to persevere in prayer, to extend hospitality to strangers, to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Alpha and Omega, we give thanks for all the saints who now rest from their labors. Keep us in union with them until we are joined around your throne. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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 #695: *As Saints of Old***

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

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
Merciful God,  
you open wide your hand  
and satisfy the need of every living thing.  
You have set this feast before us.  
Open our hands to receive it.  
Open our hearts to embrace it.  
Open our lives to live it.  
We pray this through 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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n 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.

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, 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**

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
 Our Lord's body let us take together.

**COMMUNION**

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

**COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God***



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**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.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,  
you have given us not only this bread and cup,  
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.  
Filled again by these signs of your grace,  
may we hunger for your reign of justice,  
may we thirst for your way of peace,  
for you are Lord forevermore. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**\*BLESSING**

May God, whose power working in us  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,  
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.  
Almighty God, Father,  $\text{†}$  Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**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.**

**\*SENDING SONG #802: *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus***

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *A Joyous Song of Praise* – Samuel Wesley, arr. by Edward Broughton**

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**The flowers this week are given by Janet Senka in memory of her father, John J. Closshey.**

**9:00 am**

**Assisting Minister: Martha Ward**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:**

**Usher:**

<b>Attendance Last Week:</b>	66	<b>Attendance Last Year:</b>	44
<b>Weekly Budgeted Expense:</b>	\$ 3,185.02	<b>Last Week's General Giving:</b>	\$ 1,216.58
<b>YTD Budgeted Expenses:</b>	\$ 108,290.61	<b>Last Week's Designated Giving:</b>	\$ 2,269.12
<b>YTD Actual Expense:</b>	\$ 108,916.53	<b>YTD Receipts:</b>	\$ 104,920.84

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