



³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Mark 9:37

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 23, 2018

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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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 23, 2018

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

PRELUDE: *Komm, Gott Schopfer, Heilger Geist* – J. Pachelbel

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 #641: *All Are Welcome

***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;



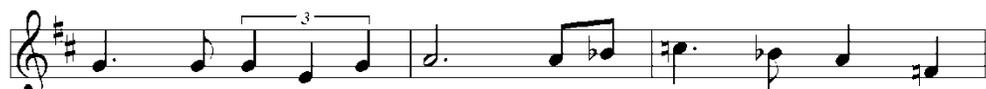
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ 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.

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11: 18–20

A reading from Jeremiah.

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 54



God is my help-er; it is the LORD who sus-tains my life.

¹Save me, O God, | by your name;
in your might, de- | fend my cause.

²**Hear my | prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words | of my mouth.

³For the arrogant have risen up against me, and the ruthless have | sought my life,
those who have no re- | gard for God.

⁴**Behold, God | is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life. R

⁵Render evil to those who | spy on me;
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice**
and praise your name, O LORD, for | it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from | every trouble,
and my eye has seen the ruin | of my foes. **R**

SECOND READING: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

A reading from James.

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. ⁴

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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: Mark 9:30-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON**

***HYMN OF THE DAY #712: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

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

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all those who suffer and mourn, especially for Jean, Karen, Amy, Anne, Harry, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Frieda, Kim, Jeff, Bill, Francis & Grace, David & Ellen, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our heart. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children in our midst and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world, including Henrietta Murray whom we commended into your care on Saturday. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling the story of your loving kindness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

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

OFFERTORY HYMN #595: *Jesus Loves Me!

Please stand for the final verse.

***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. 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.

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word,
inseparable from you.
Through him you created all things,
and in him you take delight.
He is your Word,

sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
 He there took on our nature and our lot
 and was shown forth as your Son,
 born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.
 It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will
 and won for you a holy people;
 he stretched out his hands in suffering
 in order to free from suffering those who trust you.
 It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
 in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
 to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
 to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
 taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
 we lift this bread and cup before you,
 giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
 to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:
 Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
 gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
 fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
 that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.
 Through him all glory and honor are yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church both now and forever.



Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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.

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. Gluten free wafers are available.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
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 #876: *Let the Whole Creation Cry

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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 #815: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Komm, Gott Schopfer, Heilger Geist* – F.W. Zachau

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Clarence Strabel
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher:
Attendance Last Week: 51
Weekly Budgeted Expense: \$ 3,088.92
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 114,290.15
YTD Actual Expense: \$ 127,188.03

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Martha Ward
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte:
Lector:
Usher: Keith Cardinal
Attendance Last Year: 47
Last Week's General Giving: \$ 2,346.11*
Last Week's Designated Giving: \$ 112.20
2018 YTD General Giving: \$ 105,347.13*
2018 YTD Designated Giving: \$ 15,571.34
2018 YTD Receipts: \$ 120,918.47*

***Numbers do not include the Corn Roast proceeds.**

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