



*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
~Psalm 51:10*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – September 11, 2022**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister  
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. Please join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. Throughout the service, you may stand or sit as is comfortable for you.*

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## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

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? **We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **We renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **We renounce them.**

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.**

You have made profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:  
 to live among God's faithful people,  
 to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
 to proclaim the good news of God in Christ  
 through word and deed,  
 to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
 and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?  
**We do, and We ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.  
 Stir up in us 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.**

**GATHERING SONG *Take My Life, That I May Be* (ELW 685)**



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



- take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
- take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
- take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
- take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Micah 6:6-8**

A reading from the book of Micah.

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 51:1-10**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean<sup>1</sup> heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

## **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:31-46**

A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

For your work in the whole church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. For your work in this worshiping community, we give thanks. Bless the meals and cards we will prepare today. May they be a source of nourishment and encouragement for those who will receive them. Strengthen our faith, that we trust God of love, we pray.

**hear us when we call.**

For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policy. Bring comfort and wholeness to all in need, especially Jeff, Bob, Katie, Marcia, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Pastor Storm, Karen, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. God of restoration, we pray.

**hear us when we call.**

For your work among those who came before us, we give thanks. We remember those who have died and are held forever in your loving hands. Hold us in your presence now and always. God of heaven and earth.

**hear us when we call.**

Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## REFLECTION

### INVITATION TO SERVICE

“But be doers of the word and not merely hearers.” *James 1:22a*

## **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.**

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.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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

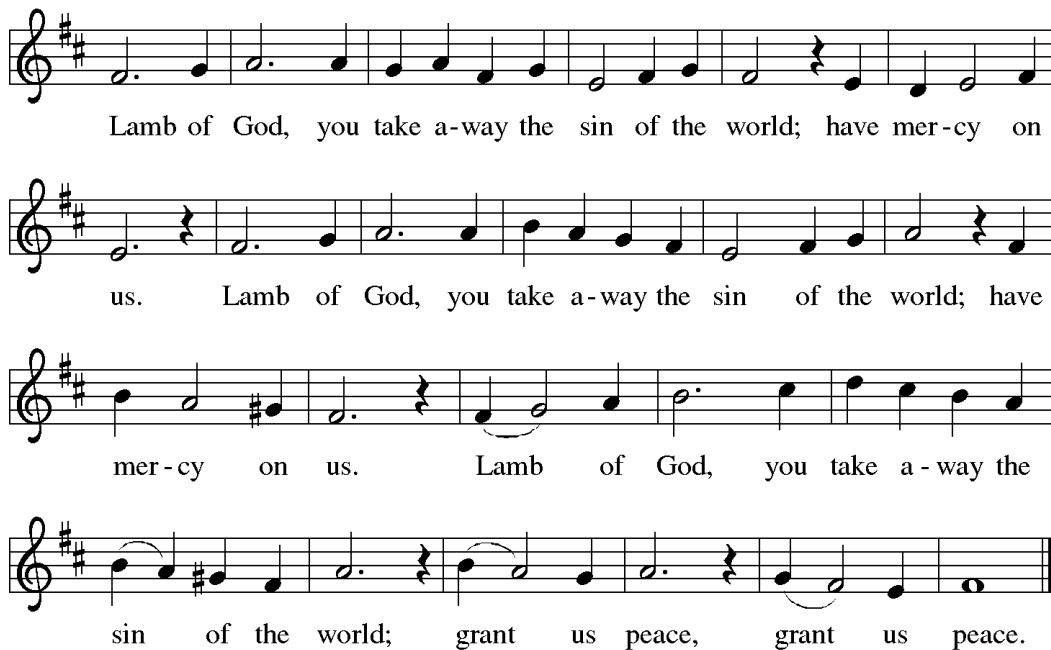
The gifts of God for the people of God.

*Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to receive a blessing.*

*Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request.*

*Communion will be administered to people where they are.*

## 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.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION





COMMUNION HYMN *Will You Come and Follow Me* (ELW 798)



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal.

Give us your grace that we might serve our neighbors with joy;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SPACE AND LEADERS**

### **BENEDICTION**

God, who gives life to all things

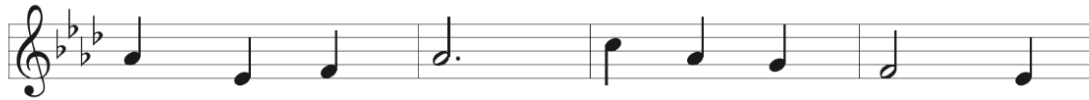
and frees us from despair,

bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, † one God,  
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**Amen.**

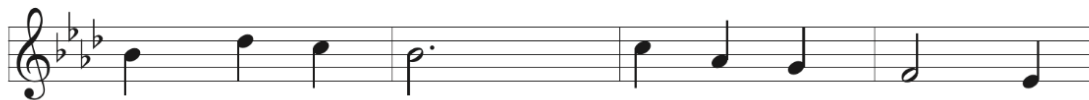
## \*SENDING SONG *God's Work, Our Hands*



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

## DISMISSAL

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

**The flowers on the altar today are from Dave & Cindy Knauff in honor of the start back to Sunday School.**

**Assisting in worship today:**

**Assisting Minister: Ruth Ann Tully**

**Acolyte: Nick Claus**

**Ushers: Matt Claus and Cardinal Family**

**Offering: Ava Niklewicz & Ella Niklewicz**

**9/18 – Luca Knauff & Eva Knauff**

**Attendance last week: 33 + 2 Zoom**

*Notes for the day's texts:*

In our baptism, we are welcomed into the family of God and charged to live in accordance to the promises made at our baptism: “to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.” So today we bring our service work into our worship service, celebrating our baptismal call to love and serve our neighbors in words and in actions.

God’s Work Our Hands Sunday has been a tradition in the ELCA for a number of years. Typically the second Sunday in September, “this day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace,” (<https://www.elca.org/dayofservice>). St. John will be joining in the national observance of this day by altering our worship service to be shaped by an act of service – making and delivering lunches and cards to our local first responders. On this day, we come together to pray, read scripture, sing songs, gather at the table of Holy Communion, and offer our act of service as an act of worship.

**Today’s Music**

*Take My Life, That I May Be.* Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt., Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870. Public Domain.

*Will You Come and Follow Me.* Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949. © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Public Domain.

*God’s Work, Our Hands.* Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954, Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987. Augsburg Fortress.

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