



What do we pray?

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Ephesians 6:18

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church 9th Sunday after Pentecost – August 7, 2022

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time visiting us, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**.*

All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.

During the time of Peace, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace.

We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.

At the time of Offering, you are invited to share a gift as you are comfortable. You may also place any prayer requests for the pastor in the offering plates.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our gathering song, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of the people.

PRELUDE

***GREETING**

Jesus tells us "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." *Matt. 18:20*
Therefore, gathered in God's merciful presence, we humbly offer our prayers and worship.

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.

Hear the words of scripture:

"And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." *1 John 5:14*

Friends, we are bold to pray together:

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.

***GATHERING SONG *We Come to You for Healing, Lord* (ELW 617)**



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.

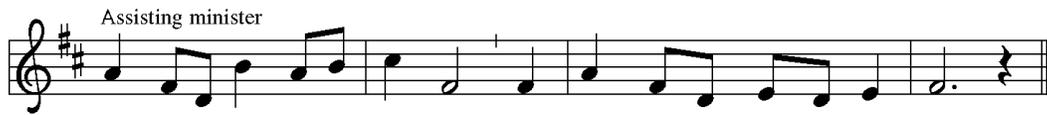
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

*GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



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

All



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.

***TIME OF PRAYER**

We lift up the joys and concerns of this congregation to the Lord.

“I call upon God, and the Lord will save me. Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and he will hear my voice.” *Psalm 55:16-17*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. You hear our prayers of joy and despair, our celebrations and our complaints. Stir up in us hearts and minds eager for connection with you in everything. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to hear your voice in our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 19:1-4, 9-14

A reading from the book of Psalms.

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

²One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁹The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can detect one’s own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

A reading from the book of Second Thessalonians.

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. ²And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. ³But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. ⁴We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. ⁵May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

REFLECTION

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39-55**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

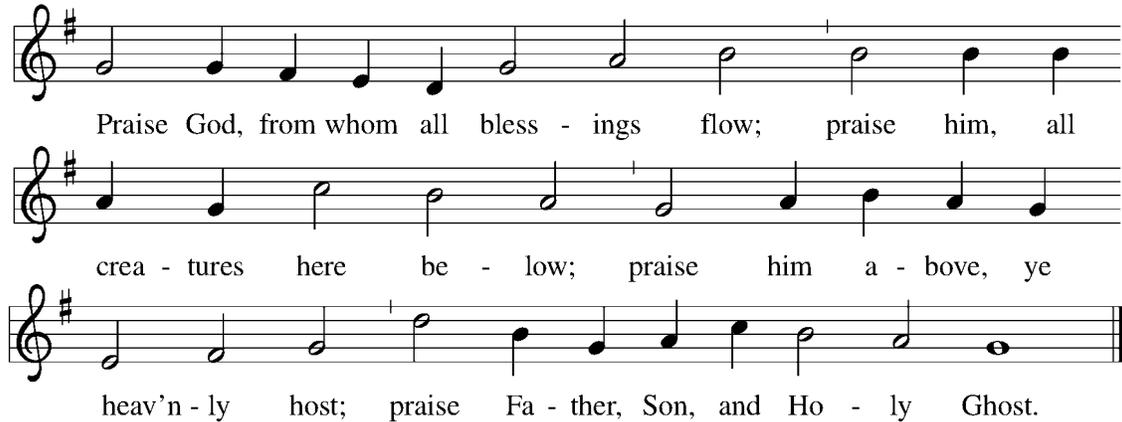
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

REFLECTION

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY *Lead Me, Guide Me* (ELW 768)

*APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 THE PEOPLE

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, we pray with the words of the psalmist:

"But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me." *Psalm 69:13*

A brief silence.

God of wisdom, fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your people to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Hear us, O God,

Sung response: *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (ELW 752)*



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

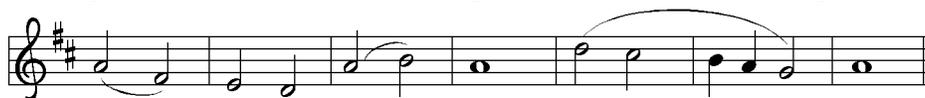
God of all lovingkindness, dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. Hear us, O God,

Sung Response: Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

God of ever-lasting life, we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in your eternal glory. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of life. Look upon all who yearn for comfort and peace. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you, especially Jeff, Bob, Katie, Marcia, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Pastor Storm, Karen, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Ruth Ann, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Guide us into comfort and life in your steadfast love. Hear us, O God,

Sung Response: Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Confident of your holy presence in our midst, we lift up the prayers on the hearts of this congregation this day (*received prayer cards are read*). Receive the prayers of your children, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* (ELW 656)

Rise on 4th verse



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and 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 musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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**

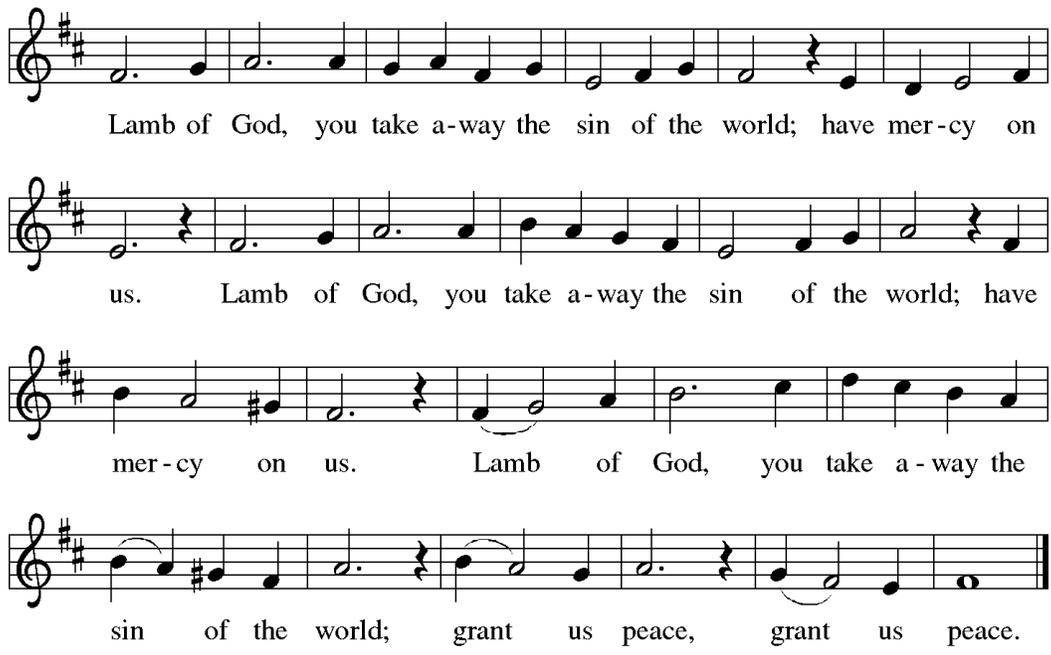
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all is now ready.

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 come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

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 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (ELW 697)



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Having been filled with your good things, we enter into a time of silent prayer, hearing the voice of the gospel: “Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Matthew 25:41

A brief silence for prayer

Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of peace,
Creator, ✚ Redeemer, and Sustainer,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Be Thou My Vision* (ELW 793)**



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

***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 Jamie & Erin Weaver

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer

Acolyte: Ava Niklewicz

Ushers:

Offering: Abigail Cardinal & Jules Knauff

Attendance last week: 35 + 5 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Prayer is about reaching out beyond ourselves and finding connection with God, and there is nothing that is off limits when we pray to God. But sometimes we have a hard time knowing what to pray. If we pray using spoken words, we wonder if we're using the right words. There are many pre-written words that we can use for prayer. We can of course use those prayers. Every Sunday we use pre-written prayers – some from scripture (e.g. The Lord's Prayer) and some written by the church or adapted from famous theologians (i.e. Prayers of Intercession or the Prayer of the Day). But we can also use our own thoughts and words for prayers. Best-selling author Anne Lamott summarized her approach to what she prays in three words: Help, Thanks, and Wow. This pattern follows along with Martin Luther's own approach to prayer: prayers of petition (help), prayers of thanksgiving (thanks), and prayers of praise (wow). We too can use this template to help guide our prayers. In this moment, what are you lamenting; what do you need help with? For what do you want to give thanks? What is bringing you wonder and awe? God hears our prayers, whether we are using prayers written by someone else or prayers that bubble up in our own hearts in the spur of the moment.

Today's Music

We Come to You for Healing, Lord. Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923, Music: Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824. GIA Publications, Inc.

Lead Me, Guide Me. Text: Doris Akers, 1922-1995, Music: Doris Akers. Unichappell Music Inc.

Doxology (Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow). Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711. Public Domain.

Blest Be the Tie that Binds. Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt., Music: Johann G. Nägeli, 1773-1836, adapt. Public Domain.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee. Text: North American traditional, Music: North American traditional. Public Domain.

Be Thou My Vision. Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931, Music: Irish traditional. Public Domain

Lord, listen to Your Children Praying. Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943 Music: Ken Medema. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP)

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