



“...Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Luke 12:33~34

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
9th Sunday after Pentecost – August 10, 2025**

420 Beaver St., PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830

email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

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 worshiping at St. John, 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. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child.

Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

PRELUDE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

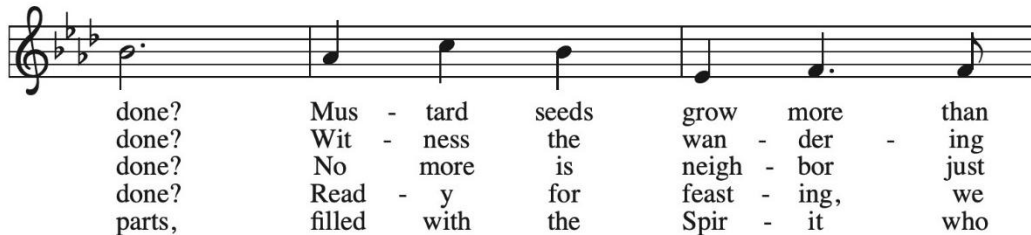
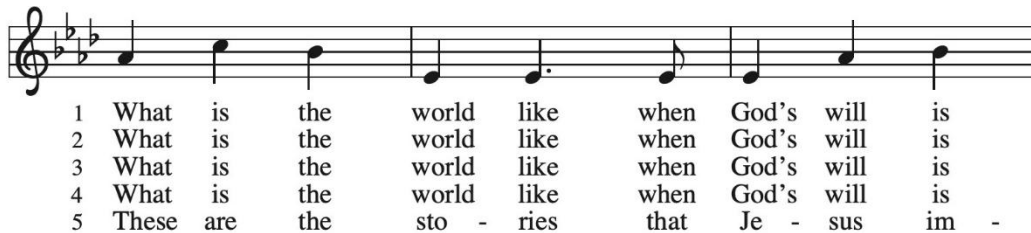
As we prepare our hearts and minds for worship, you are invited to offer a prayer for God to lead, guide, nourish, and use you in worship this morning. You can use these or other words: "Lord, I come to honor you in worship today. I ask that all the things of this week that can crowd you out of my heart be set aside by the power of your Holy Spirit. Open my heart and mind to meet you and receive you today. Amen."

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING

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

*GATHERING HYMN *What Is the World Like* (ACS 1047)



***GREETING**

Our faith is rich in mystery. Mystery that invites us to wonder with awe, and mystery that challenges us and fills our hearts with questions. We ponder what we do not know, opening ourselves to uncertainty, holding space for discernment. We struggle with spaces where faith is hard, where faith feels insufficient. Our questions can feel destabilizing, challenging, and uncomfortable. Yet we are emboldened by God's invitation to enter into conversation, to bring our questions, our struggles, and our uncertainties to God's abundant grace and mercy. So before we enter this searching time, let me tell you something that is unquestionably true:

God loves you. God embraces you.

And God uses everything – even the uncertain – to create love and connection.

May 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.**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Please join me as we confess our sins together.

But first, consider: Where have you gone wrong this week?

How have you harmed your relationship with God, with your neighbor, and with yourself?

(a brief silence for reflection)

Let us pray: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

**In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life. Amen.**

Know this: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's child through faith.

In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, our sins are forgiven.

You can doubt this love. But you can never change the truth of it.

God knows all and forgives all.

The only question that remains is whether we can accept love so freely given.

We accept God's forgiveness, and we take our place in God's purpose. Amen!

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory to God*



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

A reading from Genesis.

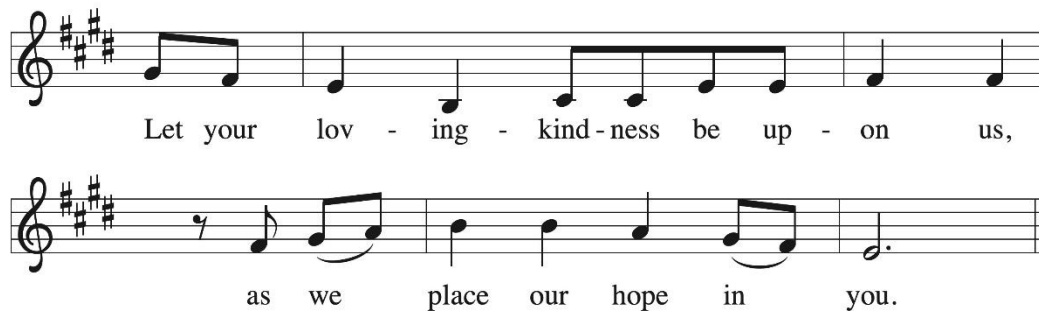
¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”

⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22

The psalm is chanted. The refrain is sung once through by all who wish. Then the tone by which the verses are chanted is first played by the music director, who will sing the lightly printed verses. The congregation will chant the verses printed in bold following the same chanted tone as the music director. The vertical line indicates the change in tone. The refrain is sung again by all as indicated with “R”.



- ¹² Happy is the nation whose God [|] is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to [|] be God's heritage!
- ¹³ **The LORD looks [|] down from heaven,**
and sees all [|] humankind.
- ¹⁴ God sits firmly en- [|] throned and watches
all who dwell [|] on the earth.
- ¹⁵ **God fashions [|] all their hearts**
and observes [|] all their deeds. R
- ¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size [|] of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by [|] their great strength.
- ¹⁷ **The horse gives vain [|] hope for victory;**
despite its great strength it [|] cannot save.
- ¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear [|] you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your [|] steadfast love,
- ¹⁹ **to deliver their [|] lives from death,**
and to keep them alive in [|] time of famine. R
- ²⁰ Our innermost being waits for [|] you, O LORD,
our helper [|] and our shield.
- ²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoic- [|] es in you,**
for in your holy name we [|] put our trust.
- ²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, [|] be upon us,
even as we place our [|] hope in you. **R**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A reading from Hebrews.

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya!
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:32-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* (ELW 580)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

For some, the Apostles' Creed is like liturgical muscle memory: You can say it without thinking about it. Today we ask you to affirm your faith by answering questions so you might truly consider what you believe. If you feel unable to affirm your faith today, listen to those around you. Borrow some faith from them as we share these ancient words.

Do you believe there is a God who made us?

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

Do you believe this God sent a person named Jesus, God's son, to save this world?

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 the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies us, animating our faith and empowering the church?

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**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened. Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance. Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy three, holy one, you hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken. We do not come to honor you alone. Thank you for those with whom we worship today – both here and in eternity. We especially remember before you now those whose joys and concerns we carry with us in our worship (*blue prayer cards are read*). Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Have No Fear, Little Flock* (ELW 764) *Rise on verse 4*



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of life, we may never know what you will do with these gifts. But we carry a faith passed to us through generations. We set the table with food and drink harvested by many hands. We break the bread of answered prayers. Use the gifts we give today to grow tomorrow's mercy. **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:

San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Gracious God, out of your unflinching *yes* for our salvation, you sent to us Jesus.
People had their doubts, but Jesus' faith compelled them to ask,
"Is this really the one who will save us from our sins?"

Christ's abundant forgiveness to sinners, humiliating death at the hands of the state,
and glorious resurrection from the depths of the tomb
all told us and showed us the answer: yes! In Christ we can know forgiveness and salvation!

The night before Jesus died, the people who knew Jesus best were hungry for answers.
When Jesus gathered them for one last meal, uncertainty swirled in their hearts.

So to explain God's love, to show it and share it,
in the night in which our Lord Jesus was betrayed,
he 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.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we never have to question your love for us, Great God.

Now send the Spirit into this meal and into our hearts.
Blend this food and drink with holiness.

**Fuse our searching souls with your perfect love,
and we will become people who delight in what you have done
and joyfully wonder what you shall make of us today.**

To you, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three be all praise today, tomorrow, 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

Come to the table of grace; receive the gift of new life. You are invited. Bring your unanswered questions with you, because the Spirit unquestionably beckons you to taste the truth of God's love. God's love is for you!

Thanks be to God!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals 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*



Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* (ELW 489)

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
 leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
 come into the daylight's splendor,
 there with joy your praises render.
 Bless the one whose grace unbounded
 this amazing banquet founded;
 Christ, though heavenly, high, and holy,
 deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**

Be thankful!

***Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, and rejoice!
Bless the one whose grace unbounded is our joy.***

- 2 Now in faith I humbly ponder
 over this surpassing wonder
 that the bread of life is boundless
 though the souls it feeds are countless;
 with the choicest wine of heaven
 Christ's own blood to us is given.
 Oh, most glorious consolation,
 pledge and seal of my salvation.**

Be thankful!

***Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, and rejoice!
Bless the one whose grace unbounded is our joy.***

- 3 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
 truest friend, and dearest treasure,
 peace beyond all understanding,
 joy into all life expanding:
 humbly now, I bow before you,
 love incarnate, I adore you;
 worthily let me receive you,
 and, so favored, never leave you.**

Be thankful!

***Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, and rejoice!
Bless the one whose grace unbounded is our joy.***

COMMUNION HYMN *Come to the Table* (ELW 481)



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG** *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (ELW 771)*



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

***BLESSING OF A NEW SEMESTER**

Those who are going to college, apprenticeships, or other learning endeavors beyond high school this fall are invited forward to receive a blessing.

We give thanks for the gift of learning and pray for God's guidance in the educational journeys of these people.

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

Teach us your ways, O God.

Take knowledge rather than gold, for all that you may desire cannot compare with wisdom.

Teach us your ways, O God.

Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Teach us your ways, O God.

People of St. John, as their home congregation, do you promise to support these people, take an interest in their futures, be with them in their celebration and sadness, and welcome them whenever they return to St John?

In God's love, we support them.

Do you promise to faithfully pray for these people, placing their future into God's loving hands as they continue to learn and grow and make their choices?

In God's love, we pray for them.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, especially those attended by these people, that they may be lively places for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom.

Bless these students as they embark on the educational journey before them.

Grant them wisdom in the decisions they make,

faith in your abiding presence,

and strength and courage as they continue to explore the opportunities before them.

Help them to study diligently and to grow in all that is good.

Grant that those who teach and those who learn

may find you to be the source of all faith, hope, love, and truth,

and may they live to the praise of your glory both now and forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING PRAYER**

Holy One, we thank you for all that you have given us. We thank you for the relationships with which you have blessed us, the guidance you have given us in your word, and the support, healing, and love you have fed us with at your table. Take away our sin and carry us into the week with the new beginning we have in your promised forgiveness. Lead us this week to be your hands, your feet, and your voice in the world. **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**

[Jesus said,] “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.”

Mark 16:15

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The flowers on the altar today were presented by Cora and Barry Steigerwalt in celebration of granddaughters Kenzie and Maddie's birthdays.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: David D

Acolyte: Cate S

Offering: Anna K & Nathan K

Greeters: Ruth Ann T

Attendance from last week: 61 +2 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Jesus promises the kingdom to us, his little flock, straining our minds with this uninhibited generosity. Even to us, so little and undeserving? Even to us, in the face of so many things to be afraid of? Suddenly everything we hold dear in this world is repriced, and the true value of things becomes plainly clear. We are being given the kingdom! So why not sell our possessions and give to those in need? We are being given the kingdom! So why not wait on expectant tiptoes for the master? When he comes he will wait on us! The Father's free generosity calls forth in us a generosity we have never before known. Fear is now met with anticipation, and tightfistedness with open hands. We are being given the kingdom, so now we know what true treasure looks like. And yet, like our fathers and mothers in faith that the Hebrews reading speaks of, we too "desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one." But in Christ our heavenly country has already arrived. In him, God has freely given us the kingdom.

Today's Music

What Is the World Like. Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979, Music: Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952. GIA Publications, Inc.

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord. Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Public Domain.

Have No Fear, Little Flock. Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4, Music: Heinz Werner Zimmerman, b. 1930. CPH Publishing (SESAC).

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness. Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, stanzas; Esther Bertieaux, b. 1944, refrain; tr. Composite, Music: Evy Lucio Cordova, b. 1934. Augsburg Fortress / PeerMusic International.

Come to the Table. Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942, Music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956. Integrity Music, Inc. / Word Music Group, Inc.

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens. Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927, Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

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Next Week's Readings

Jeremiah 23:23-29 *God's word is like fire, like a hammer that breaks rocks*

Psalms 82 *Arise, O God, and rule the earth*

Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2 *The faith of the Hebrew people, a great cloud of witnesses*

Luke 12:49-56 *Jesus brings fire on earth and has a baptism with which to be baptized*