



*"Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right."
~2 Thessalonians 3:13*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
23rd Sunday after Pentecost – November 16, 2025**

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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 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.

You are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew as desired. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Individuals are invited to take leadership roles for today's worship as representatives of the congregation. A representative is needed for the baptism and affirmation of baptism liturgy (page 4 and 7). Readers are needed for scripture readings (page 9) and prayers (pages 12, 14, and 19), and a leader is needed to help distribute the elements of communion.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

GATHERING

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

***GATHERING HYMN *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now* (ELW 448)**



- 1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
- 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
- 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
- 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

***GREETING**

Peace to you and welcome from God our life-giver,
the Creator who loves without limit,
the Savior who bridged death and life,
and the Spirit who overcomes every barrier.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM with AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

Those being baptized, those making public affirmation of their baptism, and those serving as sponsors are invited to the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

PRESENTATION FOR BAPTISM

Sponsor for candidate present the candidate:

We present Mackenzie Jo 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: We do.

PRESENTATION FOR AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

A representative of the congregation presents those making affirmation.

I present Amanda and David, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings in Christ whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold 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.**

The assembly stands.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The presiding minister addresses candidate for baptism, the parents and sponsors of young children who are to be baptized and those making public affirmation of baptism. 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?

I renounce them!

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

I renounce them!

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

I 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.**

***AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Amanda and David, you have made public 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
helping your children to grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

David and Amanda, as you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism,
you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children 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: We 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: We do.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support those who are baptized today, and those making public affirmation of their baptism, and to pray for them in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

***BAPTISM**

Mackenzie is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen! Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

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

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. Sustain and enliven Amanda, David, and Mackenzie 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.**

***WELCOME**

A lighted candle is given to the baptismal sponsor.

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

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.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE *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, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a

A reading from Malachi.

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

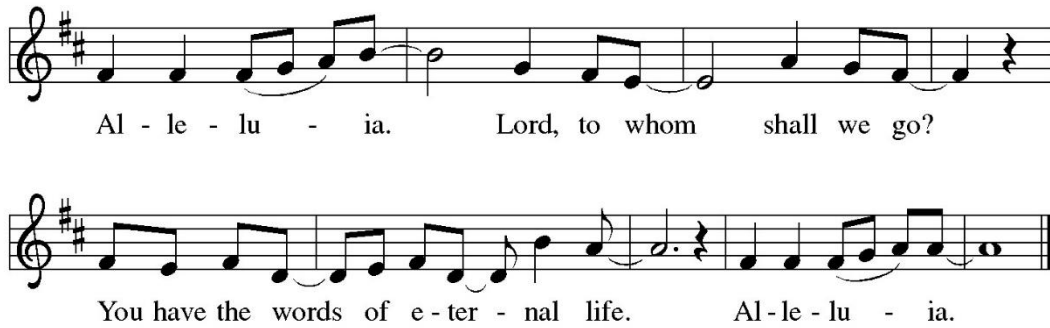
A reading from 2 Thessalonians.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING LUKE 21:5-19

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Canticle of the Turning* (ELW 723)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call, especially Mackenzie, David, and Amanda as they are baptized and affirm their baptism. In a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.



God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters Strengthen organizations providing aid to any in crisis. Among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

Sung Refrain: **O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside we yearn for you.**

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, Mike and those on our prayer list. We remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

Sung Refrain: **O God, we call, O God, we call, from deep inside we yearn,
from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside we yearn for you.**

God of life, you always hear our cry. Restore us with your everlasting mercy, and receive the prayer gathered before you now with the prayers on the hearts of this congregation today (*blue prayer cards are read*). Into your precious keeping we entrust our prayer. **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 *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* (ELW 656)



- 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**

Please pray with me.

**God, we cherished what we thought belonged only to us:
our money, our time, our families, and our freedom.**

Yet in a moment, we recognize that every truly good thing was a treasure we had taken from your open hand. We thought such treasures were ours to earn and to own.

You bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things.

Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.

Nourish us with the abundance of your feast

and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

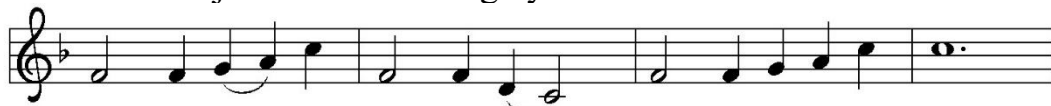
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 God, as soon as you made humankind, you loved them.
From the first human mistake, you planned the path to salvation.
Yet even when you set clear signs of promise in sky or stars,
in the mouths of prophets, or the faces of a newborn,
people still felt astonished to receive your goodness.

Jesus, at your birth your parents greeted you with wonder.
On the cross, your enemies crushed you, then marveled as you exuded grace.
And on the night in which you were betrayed, Jesus, you took bread and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to your disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, you 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.

And so we gather around this bread and cup, your body and blood
As disciples gathering to be in your community,
gathering to be fed and nourished, gathering to be filled with your grace.

Holy Spirit, we may not feel the fire of your presence,
but pour yourself out upon this bread and this cup.
And fill those gathered here with your holiness so we may be
crumbs of your mercy and drops of your goodness.

Make us your people, who can never separate from you again.
Gather us into one 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

People of God, you are Christ's people:
tied to Jesus in his death and made new in his resurrection.

So listen to the promise prepared for you in this moment:

Even when you feel dead, you are alive;
even when you have done wrong, God forgives you.

And even when you feel unwelcome or unworthy,
Jesus brings you to the table where you can find new community.

Come and take your place at the feast that never ends.

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*



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 *When Peace Like a River* (ELW 785)



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

COMMUNION HYMN *Here Would I Feast* (ACS 964)



1 A - quí del pan par - ti - do to - ma - ré,
 2 La cul - pa del pe - ca - do mi - a fue;
 1 Here would I feast up - on the bread of God,
 2 Mine is the sin, but thine the righ - teous - ness;



y de la co - pa de tu co - mu - nión;
 mas tu - ya fue la san - gre de tu cruz.
 here drink with thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;
 mine is the guilt, but thine the cleans - ing blood;



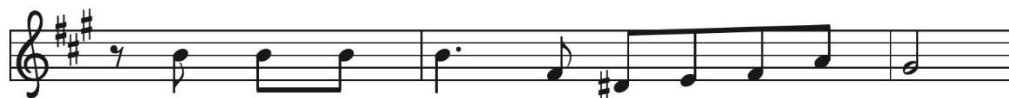
tu nom - bre, mi buen Dios, in vo - ca - ré
 Por e - lla, y tu jus - ti - cia ten - go, sé,
 here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:



y go - za - ré la paz de sal - va - ción.
 per - dón, con - sue - lo, y paz, Se - ñor Je - sús.
 here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
 thy blood, thy righ - teous - ness, O Lord my God.



3 Nos le - van - ta - mos de la ce - na, a - quí;
 3 Too soon we rise, the ves - sels dis - ap - pear;



la fies - ta pa - sa, mas no a - sí el a - mor.
 the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.



To - do se va, mas tú te que - das, sí,
 The bread and wine re - move, but thou art here,



cer - ca, muy cer - ca, a - ma - do Sal - va - dor.
 near - er than ev - er, still my shield and sun.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

May God who comes among us, the blessed and holy Trinity, God the Sovereign, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Soon and Very Soon* (ELW 439)**



1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

***DISMISSAL**

“Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent me, I also send you.”

John 20:21

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The flowers on the altar today were supplied by Jeff and Deb Martin in celebration of their daughter Jessica's birthday.

Assisting in worship today:

Acolyte: Ella N

Young Reader: Anna K

Offering: Anna K and Nathan K

Attendance from last week: 73

Notes for the day's texts:

In our baptisms we move *spiritually from death to life*. We are reminded of this in the words from the service of Holy Baptism: "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" (*ELW* 227). We begin in death, and grace raises us to life. Still, we tend to focus on the spiritual nature of this change or transformation.

It is easy to forget that by the very nature of that baptism, we can in an instant move *physically from life to death* for the sake of the life we are gifted with in baptism. We hear the words of promise and trust in the gifts and blessings of baptism, but overlook the accompanying responsibility. Like a teenager with a brand new driver's license we relish our newfound freedom and may forget the others on the road whose safety depends upon the new driver. The new life we receive in baptism is a life that is lived to God each day. On any given day we may be called upon to renounce, in some way, the God we serve and love. On any given day, we may be called upon to stand up for life—or for *a* life, or for *our own* life—or for someone's freedom or safety, or for love, perhaps even under threat of death. Many around the world live that kind of life every day for the sake of the gospel. Jesus encouraged disciples to always be ready for the tests and trials that will somehow surely come. As we grow in the obedience, courage, patience, and love we need to keep the faith in difficult times.

Today's Music

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now. Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, 1933-2009, Music: North American traditional; arr. hymnal version. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

Canticle of the Turning. Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat, Music: Irish traditional. GIA Publications, Inc. / Public Domain.

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

When Peace Like a River. Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888, Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876. Public Domain.

Here Would I Feast. Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889; tr. T. W. Speaks, Music: José Ruiz, b. 1956. Augsburg Fortress.

Soon and Very Soon. Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945, Music: Andraé Crouch. Capitol CMG Publishing.

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Next Week's Readings

Jeremiah 23:1-6 *Coming of the shepherd and righteous Branch who will execute justice*

Psalms 46 *I will be exalted among the nations*

Colossians 1:11-20 *Hymn to Christ, firstborn of all creation, peace through his blood*

Luke 23:33-43 *Jesus is crucified between two thieves: you will be with me in Paradise*