

"And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you; he will quickly grant justice to them.

~Luke 18:6~8

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church 19th Sunday after Pentecost – October 19, 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 prefilled 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

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.

*GREETING

Followers of Christ, believe this – God loved the world, God loves the world, God loves you!

May the truth of this great love story shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling.

So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements; come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings; come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy for us.

Come, in love for God, for each other, and for the world, to listen for God's Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling.

Followers of Christ 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.**

Let us worship!

*GATHERING HYMN Day by Day (ELW 790)



lead me to the home I trea-sure, where at last I'll find e - ter-nal rest. help me bear life's pain and sor-row till in glo - ry I be-hold your face. with your pres-ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom-ised land.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.** Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. But first, let us consider: Where have we gone wrong this week? How have we harmed our relationship with God, with our neighbor, or with ourselves? (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 and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy.

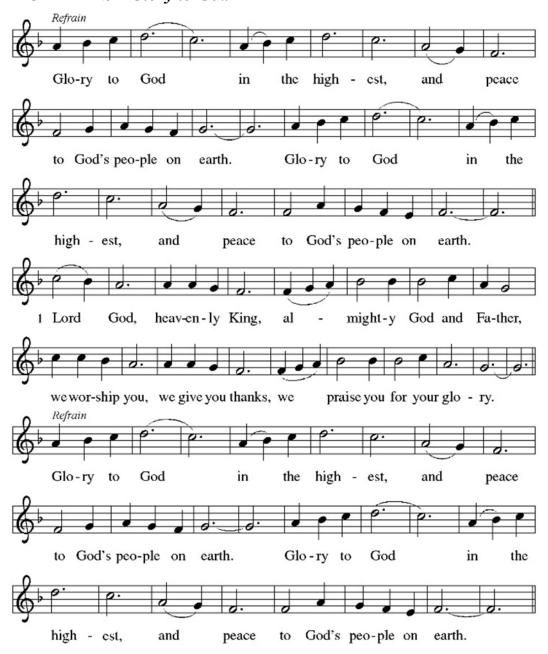
We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE Glory to God





*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

A reading from Genesis.

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121

The psalm is read responsively. The leader will read the light printed verses. The congregation will read the bolded verses.

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
- ² My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.
- ³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- ⁴ Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
- ⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will | keep your life.
- ⁸ The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

A reading from 2 Timothy.

- ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.
- 4:1 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING LUKE 18:1-8

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' "⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The gospel of the Lord.

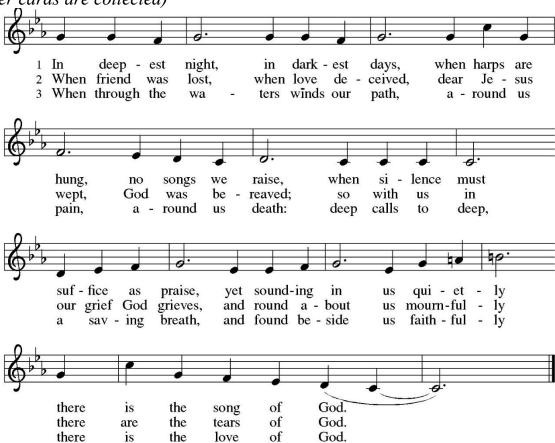
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY In Deepest Night (ELW 699)

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



*APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected official's humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer especially Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, Mike, those on our prayer list and all who suffer in any way. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for St John. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace, receive our prayer.

O God of life, 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 those whose joys and concerns we carry with us in our worship (*blue prayer cards are read*). Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust this prayer to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

*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.).

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 The People Walk (ELW 706)



*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, 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,

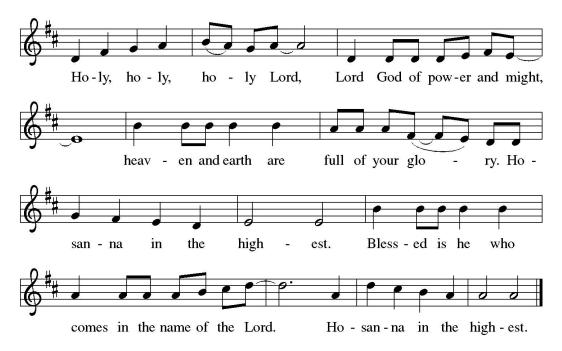
who on this day overcame death and the grave,

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:



O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty.

When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child;

When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom.

Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.

He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city.

With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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 his death, we cry out Amen. Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. Amen.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, 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

You are invited to come to the table of grace; receive the gift of new life.

We come to this table not because we must but because we may,

not because we are strong, but because we are weak.

We come, not because any goodness of our own gives us a right to come, but because we need mercy and help.

We come, because we love the Lord and would like to love him more.

We come, because he loved us and gave himself for us.

We come and meet the risen Christ together.

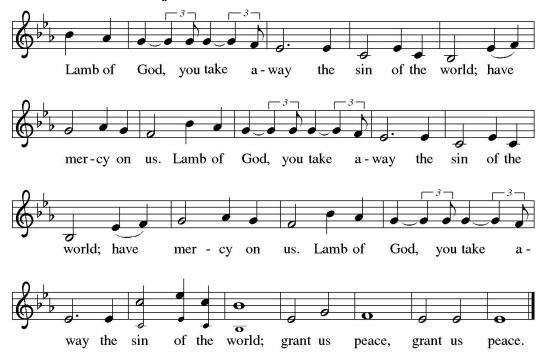
Come and taste the truth of God's love, for God's love is for you!

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



COMMUNION HYMN What a Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW 742)



- 1 What a friend we have in Je sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri als and temp ta tions? Is there trou-ble an y where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav-y lad en, cum bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer! We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer. Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share? Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev-'ry-thing to God in prayer!

Je - sus knows our ev-'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.

In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so-lace there.

COMMUNION HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW 473)

Ho - ly, ho - ly,



my

ho - ly,

heart, my heart

a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to e-res Se - ñor. My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

*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 God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (ELW 545)



- 1 Lord, dis miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad o ra tion for your gos pel's joy ful sound.
- 3 Sav ior, when your love shall call us from our strug-gling pil grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri-umph in re - deem-ing grace. May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound. let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum-mons to o - bey.



*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

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord say, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'

And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"

Isaiah 6:8

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

The flowers on the altar today were supplied by Janet Senka in thankfulness for the love of God.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Keith C

Acolyte: Jules K

Young Reader: Ava N

Offering: Anna K and Nathan K

Greeters:

Attendance from last week: +4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

Two characters step out of scripture today to teach us about persistence in prayer. One is named. Jacob is the devious brother who tricked his twin, Esau, out of his birthright and their father's blessing, and Jacob was himself duped on his wedding night by his father-in-law, Laban. The other character, unnamed, is a widow acquainted with grief, one among many marginalized and vulnerable people, but a woman who dares to stand her ground in her quest for justice. On the banks of the river Jabbok, Jacob wrestles with the angel and limps away with a blessing and a new identity. The unnamed widow repeatedly appeals for justice and finally is vindicated. Many have known persistent prayer as a kind of wrestling with God. Many have pleaded with God for justice and mercy. Today God's grace and mercy is known in the blessing of baptismal remembrance and our identity as beloved children of God.

Today's Music

Day by Day. Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005, Music: Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

In Deepest Night. Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953-2021, Music: Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962. Augsburg Fortress /Selah Publishing Co., Inc. The People Walk. Text: Juan A. Espinosa, b. 1940; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, Music: Juan A. Espinosa. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press) / Augsburg Fortress.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus. Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886, Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918. Public Domain.

Holy, Holy, Holy. Text: Argentine traditional, Music: Argentine traditional. Public Domain.

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing. Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.,

Music: Sicilian, 18th cent. Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings (Reformation Sunday)

Jeremiah 31:31-34 *I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord*Psalm 46 *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold*Romans 3:19-28 *Justified by God's grace as a gift*John 8:31-36 *Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth*