

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

a reconciling in Christ congregation



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

10:30 am

Pastor: The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

Vicar: Vanessa Storlie

Director of Music: Jessica Madow

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Statement of Welcome

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.—Galatians 3:28

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people. St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

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Communion is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

Nursery – A staffed nursery person is available in the nursery following Children's Chat . . .

Service Notes – * (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.

- Page # indicates the front of the hymnal is used . . .
- Hymn # indicates the back of the Hymnal is used . . .

Gathering

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

Announcements

Prelude

“*Loving Spirit*” by W. Walker
(Tune from ‘*Southern Harmony*’, 1835)

* Confession & Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 449 *“We Know that Christ Is Raised”*

Please follow along in your hymnals as the service continues with Setting 4 on page 147.

*Greeting - page 147

*Kyrie - page 147

*Canticle of Praise *“This is the Feast . . .”* - page 149

*Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Word

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

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 66:8-20

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and
water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of
rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia . . .”

- page 151

*** Gospel**

John 14:15-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Chat

Sermon: Vicar Vanessa Storlie

***Hymn of the Day –**

ELW # 631 *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

****Apostles' Creed***

C: 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***

A: Let us pray. God our faithful companion, you promise to never leave us and to send your Spirit to guide us in wisdom and truth. Send your people into the world to serve as mirrors that reflect and magnify your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: All the earth sings praises to you. Grant your care to the creatures, plants, and places that are suffering, and equip us to respond to their song. Make us agents of restoration and refreshment for all your beloved creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Nurturing Lord, you sent your Spirit to grant us peace. Make your presence known to those who feel abandoned or alone, and to all who are sick or grieving including . . . *Those we mention on our prayer list, and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You hold us in your loving care. We pray for mothers and mother figures. Console all who long to be mothers, children estranged from their mothers, those grieving the death of a mother, and mothers who have lost a child. Please hold all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

*** *The Sharing of the Peace***

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

(Ushers now proceed to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)

Offertory “*Mothers of Faith*” by Malcolm Gordon
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir

*Presentation of Gifts

(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)

*Offertory Hymn

ELW #184 “*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*”

*Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

*Great Thanksgiving

- page 152

* Preface

(Leader continues . . .)

***Holy, Holy, Holy** - page 153

***Communion Form** (*Leader continues . . .*)

***Lord's Prayer** - page 154

***Lamb of God** - page 154

Holy Communion - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table.*

**At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion.*

Please remain at the front until you are dismissed.

Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know.

Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Communion Hymns

ELW # 481 ***"Come to the Table"***

ELW # 496 ***"One Bread, One Body"***

ELW # 492 ***"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"***

***Post Communion Canticle** *"Now Lord . . ."* - page 113

***Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Sending

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

***Blessing**

P: The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

ELW #376 *"Thine is the Glory"*

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .

Worship Assistant– Joyce Petty

Ushers – Helen & John Border

Reader – Karla Lake

Altar Guild – Barbara Horinko / Sylvia Orem

This Week at St. John's: May 14th – May 21st

Today (5/14/23) – Sixth Sunday of Easter Worship, 10:30 am

Today (5/14/23) –Art Gallery Open, 12-2:00 pm

Monday (5/15/23) – Choir Practice, 1:00 pm

Tuesday (5/15/23) Bible Study, 1:30 pm – Hosp. Rm.

Friday (5/19/23) – Newsletter Deadline

Saturday (5/20/23) – Membership / Stove Cleaning

Saturday (5/20/23) – Vicar's Clothing Closet, 9-11:00 am

Sunday (5/21/23) — Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 am,
Classes: 9:00 am

Sunday (5/21/23) – Ascension of our Lord, Worship, 10:30 am

Sunday (5/21/23) – Meetings following worship:
Property - Office
Outreach - Chapel

Sunday (5/21/23) –Art Gallery Open 12-2:00 pm

Attendance: 75

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$2,778.50
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,234.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$44,895.00

(These totals do not include special envelopes.)

Prayer Concerns: Bonita, Chuck, Deanna, Earl, Sandy, Richard, Christopher, Kenny, Mary, David, Terry, Jan, Pamela, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the Family and Friends of Duane Olson, Patricia Thompson, & Joan Johnson.

Altar Flowers today are dedicated to all the nurturing figures that have loved and shaped us as God's beloved Children.



**Last Day of Sunday School - May 28th . . .
Join Us . . .**

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped with the church workday . . . Property Committee



The church was just notified by the ProJeCt food bank that there are more people than ever coming in for food and the supplies the food pantry has available are limited. Food insecurity is all around us and growing . . .

Help the church step up and provide for the community around us. We are looking for donations of the following: boxed whole grain cereal, rice products, pasta products, tomato products, canned meats, tuna, fish, non-perishable canned products such as vegetables, soups, and entrees like chili, non-perishable milk products, peanut butter, baking mix/pancake mix, beans, canned fruits, fruit juices.

Donations are accepted on Tuesdays from 8:30 – 1:00pm or bring it to the church.

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Permission to use "Mothers of Faith" by Malcolm Gordon granted by composer online at <https://www.onevoice.org.nz/2015/05/05/celebrating-the-mothers-of-our-faith/#comment-9181>.

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