**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

at

***St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church***

**a reconciling in Christ congregation**



**Sixth Sunday of Pentecost**

July 12, 2020

**Pastor:** The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

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**Guest and Visitor Information**

**Welcome** . . . We are grateful that you have come to tune in with us this morning.  It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ this morning and the presence of God during our worship.

***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.

**Gathering**

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

***Announcements***

***Prelude***

***\*Confession and Forgiveness***

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin . . .

Reconciling God,

**C: we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

***\*Greeting***

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

***\*Kyrie***  *(sung by Pastor & Vicar)*



***Prayer of the Day***

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

**Word**

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

***First Lesson*  Isaiah 55:10-13**

10For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
  and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
 making it bring forth and sprout,  
  giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
 11so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
  it shall not return to me empty,  
 but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
  and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
  
 12For you shall go out in joy,  
  and be led back in peace;  
 the mountains and the hills before you  
  shall burst into song,  
  and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
 13Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
  instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
 and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,  
  for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

***Psalm* 65:[1-8] 9-13**  *(Read Responsively, leave your mask on)*

1You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

2**To you, the one who answers prayer,**  
**to you all | flesh shall come.**

3Our sins are stronger than we are,  
but you blot out our transgressions.

4**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!** **They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

5Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

6**You make firm the mountains by your power;**  
**you are girded about with might.**

7You still the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

8**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs;** **you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

9You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

10**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;**  
**with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

11You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

12**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,** **and the hills be clothed with joy.**

13May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

***Second Lesson* Romans 8:1-11**

1There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, 8and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.  
  9But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel*****Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

1That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9Let anyone with ears listen!”  
  18“Hear then the parable of the sower. 19When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you**, **O Christ.**

**Homily *–*** The Reverend Susan D. Ruggles

*(Please pause for a moment of silence / reflection)*

***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***

A: Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Abiding God, care for all who are in need. For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. For those who are in pain, help to heal them. For those on our prayer list including . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries and deepen relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*(Please gesture to others near you as a sign of peace.)*

**Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

***\*Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.** **Hosanna in the highest.** **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

***Preface*** *(Pastor continues … )*

***The Lord’s Prayer***

**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.**

***Holy Communion***

*Please proceed to the altar at the usher’s invitation,*

*and take a pre-filled communion set.*

*Those who wish to come forward for a blessing may do so.*

*Please dispose of trash in receptacle.*

***Post Communion Prayer***

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending**

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

***Blessing***

P: God, the Source of glory,

God, the Word of life,

God, the Spirit of truth + bless you all,

now and forever.

**C: Amen. Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude***

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