

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
a reconciling in Christ congregation



*Twenty-fourth Sunday of Pentecost*

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:30 am

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Mike Button

**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 . . .

### **Hymn Book Abbreviations:**

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book

WOV – With One Voice

ACS – All Creation Sings

# Gathering

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

## Welcome

## Prelude

*“God of Day and God of Darkness”* set by Marty Haugen  
Donna Lang, voice and guitar

## \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen

P: Holy One,

**C: We confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P: Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

## \*Gathering Hymn

ELW # 689 *“Praise and Thanksgiving”*

*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. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

## Childrens Chat

# Word

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

## First Reading

**Amos 5:18-24**

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Reading:

**Psalm 70**

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;  
O LORD, make haste to help me.

**<sup>2</sup>Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

**<sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

## *Second Reading*

## **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\* Gospel**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon** - *The Reverend Mike Button*

## **\*Hymn of the Day –**

ELW # 488 *“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”*

## **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. O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God.**

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**A: O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God.**

**C: Your mercy is great.**



A: O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day including *those we mention on our prayer list . . . and those we name aloud or in our hearts . . .* God of grace,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: O God for whom we listen, embolden the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have passed and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us. Hear us, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and 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**

*“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”* (spiritual)  
Sung by the Wittenberg Choir & Congregation  
Donna Lang, djembe

**Congregation please join singing refrain:**

**Children, don't grow weary, children don't grow weary,  
children, don't grow weary, for this work's almost done.**

## **\*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. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**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

**\*Invitation to Communion**

**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. Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

**Communion Music**

Solo: *"We Remember"* by Marty Haugen  
Sung by Donna Lang

**Communion Hymns**

*(All Creation Sings Hymnal)*

ACS #967 *"This Is Christ's Body"*

ACS #966 *"Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"*

ACS #962 *"In This Feast of Love"*

**\*Table Blessing**

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

## **\*Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

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

## **Announcements**

### **\*Blessing**

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Sending Hymn**

ELW # 439 *“Soon and Very Soon”*

## \*Dismissal

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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**Thank you to our Worship Volunteers . . .**

**Worship Assistant**– Steve Moyer

**Ushers** – Bob & Cindy Black

**Reader** – John Fritchman

**Altar Guild** – Sue Glenn / Sharon Rabuck

**Video Team** – Brad Thomas

**This Week at St. John's: November 12<sup>th</sup> - November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (11/12/23) – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost, Worship, 10:30 am

**Today** (11/12/23) – Following Worship: Membership – Office

**Today** (11/12/23) – Gallery Open: 12-3:00 pm

**Monday** (11/13/23) – Choir Rehearsal, 1:00 pm

**Tuesday** (11/14/23) – Bible Study, 10:00 am, Hospitality Rm.

**Friday** (11/17/23) – Newsletter Deadline

**Saturday** (11/18/23) – Clothing Closet Open 9-11:00 am

**Saturday** (11/18/23) – Gallery Open: 12-3:00 pm

**Sunday** (11/19/23) – Sunday School / Adult Forum, 9:00 am

**Sunday** (11/19/23) – Harvest Home Sunday, Worship, 10:30 am

**Sunday** (11/19/23) – Following Worship: Property – Office  
Outreach – Chapel

**Sunday** (11/19/23) – Gallery Open: 12-3:00 pm

**Attendance: 50**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$1,903.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,234.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$97,035.00

*(These totals do not include special envelopes.)*

***ADULT FORUM - meeting in the Gallery at 9:00 am,  
Topic: The Ten Commandments – JOIN US ...***

***Crisis in the Middle East . . .***

Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters in the region.

Donations can be made to:

***Lutheran World Relief  
PO Box 17061  
Baltimore, MD  
21297-1061***

Or visit:

<https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>



**THE GALLERY AT ST. JOHN'S**

**HOLIDAY SHOW HOURS: 12:00-3:00 PM**

**JOIN US ...**

**THE GALLERY HAS EXTENDED HOURS FOR THE  
HOLIDAY SEASON !**

**CHECK US OUT SATURDAYS IN NOVEMBER,  
12:00-3:00 PM**

***The Church Office will be closed for the  
Thanksgiving Holiday:  
November 23rd & November 24th***