Homecoming Sunday



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 2023 | 10:30 AM



All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-

racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music cha Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator j Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org crothman@stjohnssummit.org jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org ion wk154linda@gmail.com

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

Awaken our hearts and minds to your Word, O God. Give us understanding so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we are able to do all that you command for love's sake. Gathered in Christ's name, gathered around the Word, we pray. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, Vol. 2

Gathering

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

ELW Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book ACS All Creation Sings: Purple Book

PRELUDE Prelude & Fugue in C major, BWV 531

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

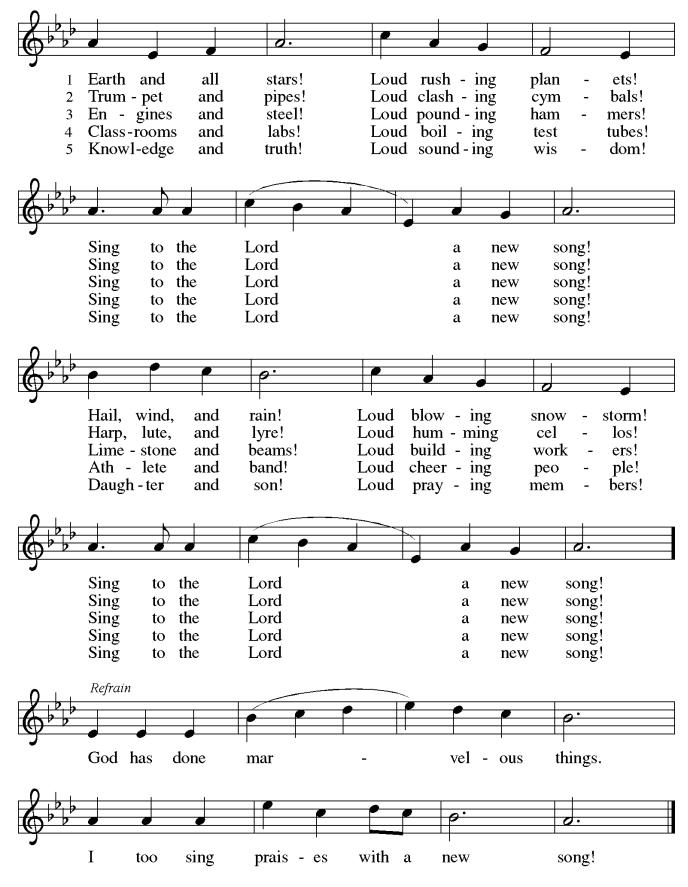
The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, 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.

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 word and sacrament in 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. **Amen.**

J.S. Bach

GATHERING HYMN ELW 731 Earth and All Stars



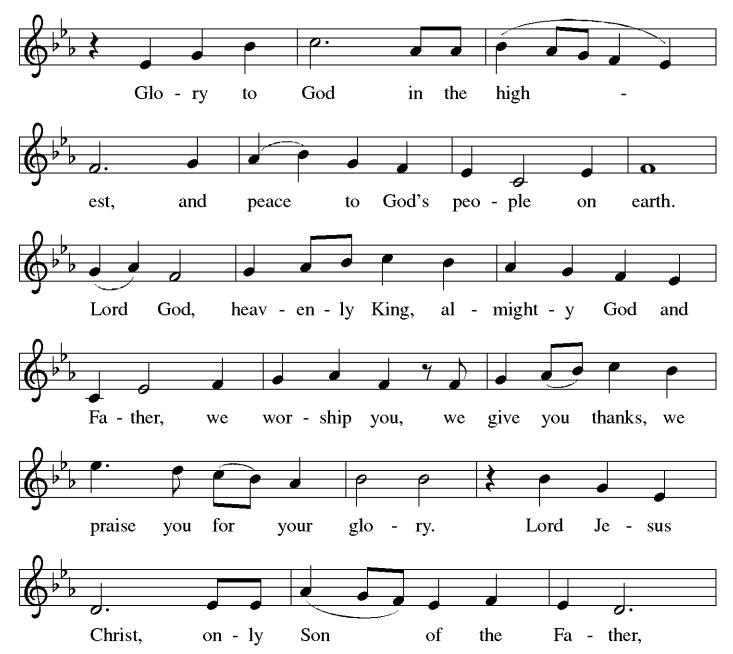
Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.



APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

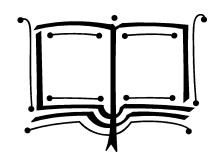
HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



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

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7–11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

Refrain sung first by choir; all other times by all. Boldface verses sung by all.



³⁸ Fulfill your promise [to] your servant,

which is for [those] who fear you.

³⁹ Turn away the re-[proach that] I dread, because your [judgments] are good.

⁴⁰ Behold I long for [your] commandments; by your [righteousness] enliven me. *Antiphon*

Text from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ©2006. *Music by Thomas Pavlechko* © 2004, 2012 admin. Augsburg Fortress.

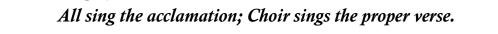
SECOND READING Romans 13:8–14

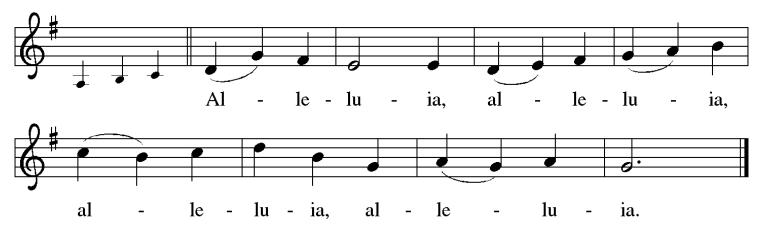
⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

Please stand. GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





V. In Christ God was reconciling the world [|] to himself,* entrusting the message of reconcilia- [|] tion to us. *(2 Cor. 5:19)*

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

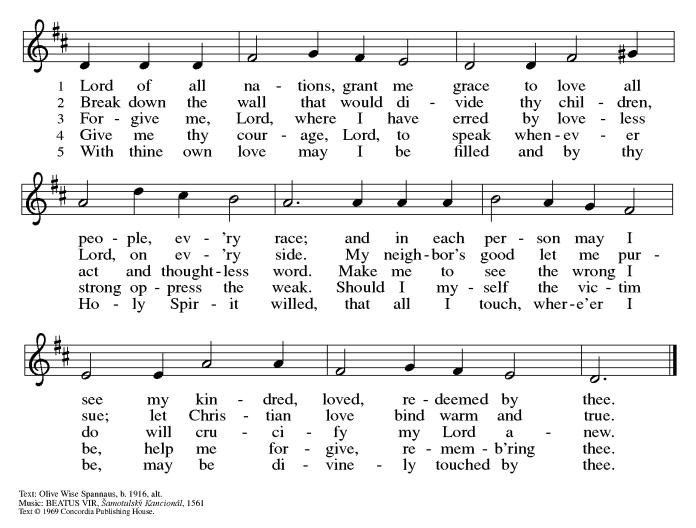
Please be seated. CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 716 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



APOSTLES CREED

With the whole Church, we confess our faith:

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.

Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called 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. Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

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

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Congregation President: Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith. We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Please stand. **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Please be seated. PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC Lord of the Dance Shaker tune, adpt. Sydney Carter, arr. John Barnard

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth: At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be, I am the Lord of the dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; They came with me and the dance went on:

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame: The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high, And they left me there on a cross to die:

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone; But I am the dance, and I still go on:

They cut me down and I leapt up high; I am the life that'll never, never die. I'll live in you if you'll live in me: I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

-Sydney Carter

OFFERING HYMN ELW 681 We Plow the Fields and Scatter *Verse 3*

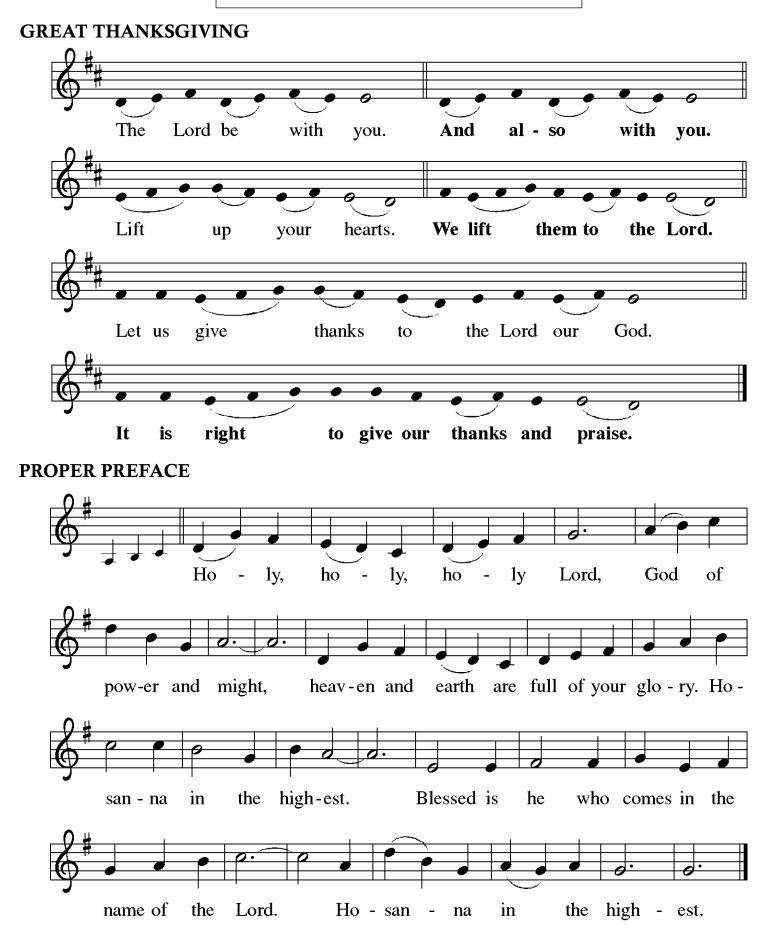


Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt. Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Meal God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

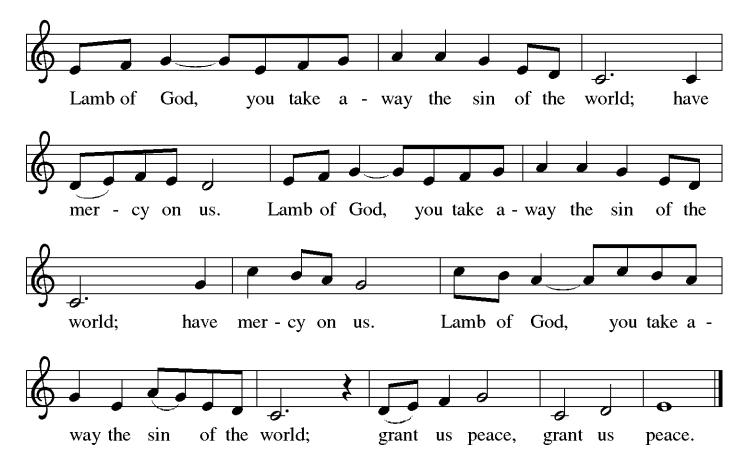
Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNON

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time. The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer. Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup. Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

> All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 470 Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether



Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

Text © Oxford University Press 1931. Used by permission.

Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.



POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 836 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Congregation processes to the Narthex and Library.

LIBRARY DEDICATION

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we are gathered to ask God's blessing as with thankfulness we dedicate this library to the glory of God.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statues, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise.

A reading from Proverbs: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (*Proverbs 1:7*)

A reading from Romans: I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

(Romans 12:1-2)

Brief remarks and words of thanks.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for the Lord is good. **God's mercy endures forever.**

ANTHEM Peace I Leave With You

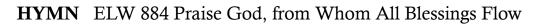
Amy Beach

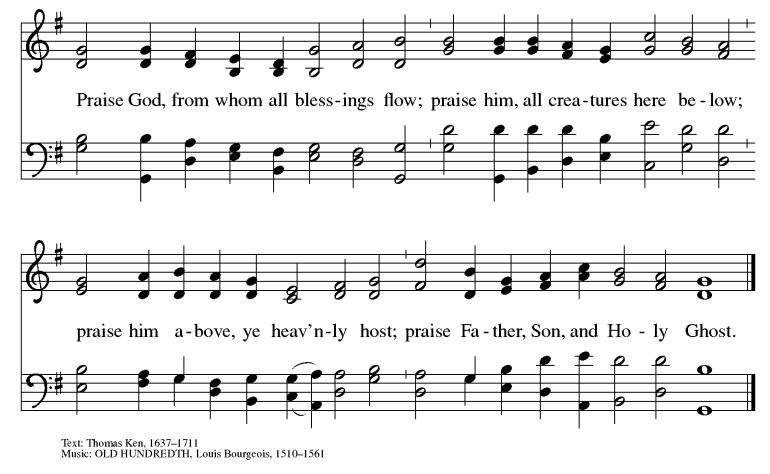
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled.

– John 14:27

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for your abundant gifts. By your holy wisdom all things have been made to reflect your glory, for the sustenance of life, and for the use and delight of your living creatures. Send your blessing upon us and upon this library, which we set apart today to your praise and honor. May it be a lively place for sound learning and new discovery. May warmth and welcome fill this place. May it be a home for the community and a haven for the stranger; a place for laughter, for tears, for wonder, and above all a place of encounter with you, O God, the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**





Almighty God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in peace. **Amen.** Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

September 10, 2023

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and with thanks for God's many blessings by Helen and Steve Sanders.

Hawaii Wildfires Relief: Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with local agencies to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction on Maui and is committed to assisting communities in the years ahead. You may give through St. John's, noting Hawaii Wildfires in the memo line. Donations will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected.

Library Dedication, TODAY at the end of the 10:30 service.

Homecoming Picnic, TODAY after the 10:30 service.

Children's Choir: The children's choir is open to everyone in the community, grades K through 6, rehearsing Sundays at 9:30–10:00 AM and singing the first Sunday of the month at the 10:30 AM service. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music for more information.

Faith Formation is for children ages Pre-K through 6th Grade. There will be two classes this Fall, Pre-K through 2nd Grade and 3rd through 6th Grade. All are welcome as we grow our faith together through Bible reading, fun and sharing on Sundays at 10:00–10:30 AM. Contact Deacon Walker for more information.

Forum Series starting TODAY at 9:00 AM through October 15. The ELCA is developing a social statement on Civic Life and Faith, the relationship between church and state. We will dialogue about religious liberty, the proper role of the church in relation to government, and many other critical topics. Feedback is solicited by the ELCA following these sessions.

Confirmation Orientation, September 17 at 5:30 PM for 7–9th graders.

The 1619 Project: The Anti-Racism Committee will be hosting viewings of the documentary "The 1619 Project" on **Mondays, September 18, 25, & October 2 from 7:00-9:00 PM.** The series seeks to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of our national narrative. After each viewing we will discuss the episode over light snacks.

At Home in Summit: Summit Interfaith Council is sponsoring a series on housing September 13, 20, & 27. Please see the weekly email or the narthex bulleting board for more details.

We are hiring a Livestream Coordinator for Sunday services from 7:45–Noon, including religious holidays, approximately 5 hours a week. Open to high school and college students with TV production experience. Contact Linda Mesenbrink at 973-202-2773 or Linda.mesenbrink@verizon.net.

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901 stjohnssummit.org | 908-273-3846



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