

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022 | 10:30 AM



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

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 from the ushers and a professionally staffed nursery is available from 7:45 AM to 11:45 AM. Follow the signs or ask any member for directions.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastors will be happy 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. Individual wired devices coming soon!



Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Vicar Naeem Harry, Intern

Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Andrew Schanstra, Livestream Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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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

Faithful God, we give you thanks that in Jesus Christ you have entrusted us with the richness of your glory and the treasure of your grace. Make us faithful stewards of your good gifts, that we may show your love to this generation and welcome us into your eternal home, where we will worship and serve you forever; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year C, 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 Psalm 123

Emma Lou Diemer

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.

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.**

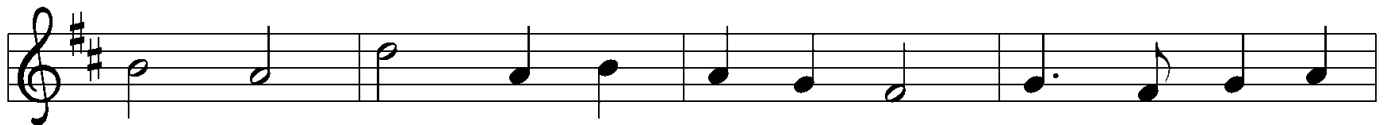
GATHERING HYMN ELW 458 Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing be to God our
 2 Not our own ho - li - ness, nor that we have
 3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come in vis - i -
 4 Praise to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



mak - er, source of all bless - ing, prod - i - gal cre -
 striv - en brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have
 ta - tion; you are the truth, our hope, and our sal -
 Spir - it: one Lord, one faith, one source of ev - 'ry



a - tor. Bap - tized and made your own, now we come be -
 giv - en. Bap - tized and set a - part, strength - en us, O
 va - tion. Bap - tize with joy and pow'r, give, O Dove de -
 mer - it. Here now re - new your church through this sym - bol



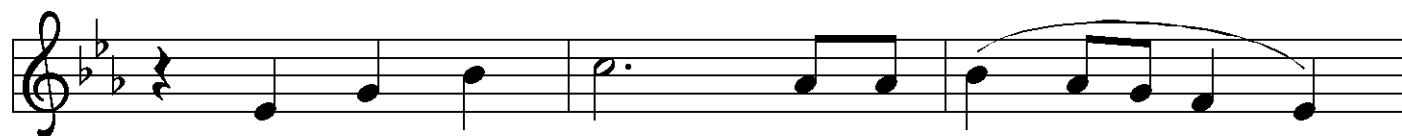
fore you, and we a - dore you.
 Sav - ior, with grace and fa - vor.
 scend - ing, life nev - er end - ing.
 giv - en; grant peace from heav - en.

Text: H. Francis Yardley, 1911–1990; Frank J. Whiteley, b. 1914, alt.
 Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681
 Text © 1969 H. Francis Yardley and Frank J. Whiteley

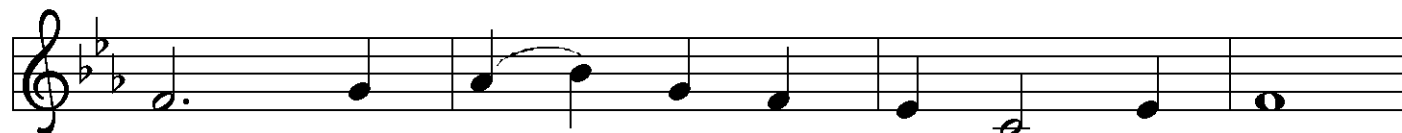
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



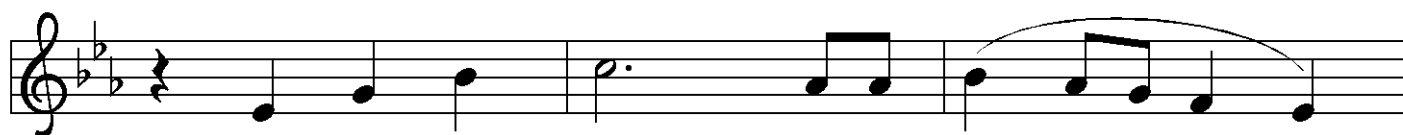
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

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

Please be seated.

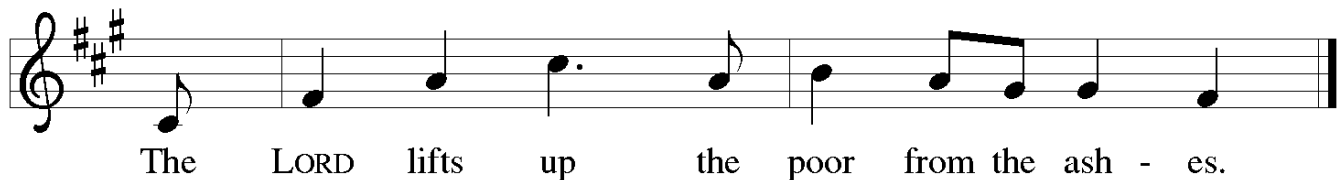
FIRST READING Amos 8:4–7

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” ⁷The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

PSALM 113

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



¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants ¹ of the LORD;
praise the name ¹ of the LORD.

²**Let the name of the ¹ LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- ¹ evermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its ¹ going down
let the name of the ¹ LORD be praised.

⁴**The LORD is high a- ¹ bove all nations;
God's glory a- ¹ bove the heavens. R**

⁵Who is like the ¹ LORD our God,
who sits en- ¹ throned on high,

⁶**but stoops ¹ to behold
the heavens ¹ and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out ¹ of the dust
and lifts up the poor ¹ from the ashes,

⁸**enthroning them ¹ with the rulers,
with the rulers ¹ of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a ¹ childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. ¹ Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING 1 Timothy 2:1–7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

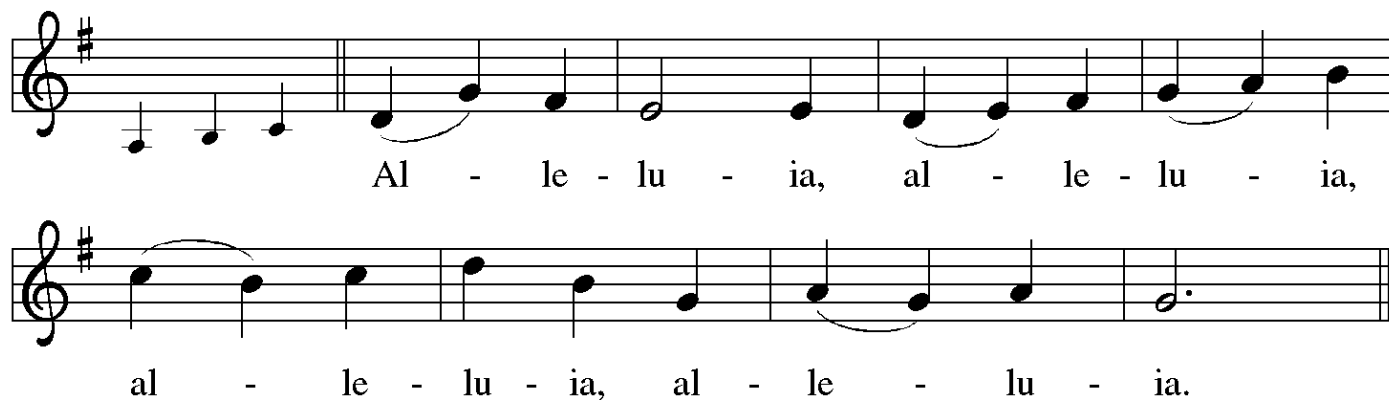
⁶who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing the acclamation; Choir sings the proper verse.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

V. Live your life in a manner worthy of the gos/pel of Christ;
strive side by side for the faith / of the gospel.

GOSPEL Luke 16:1–13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰”Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin

Please stand.

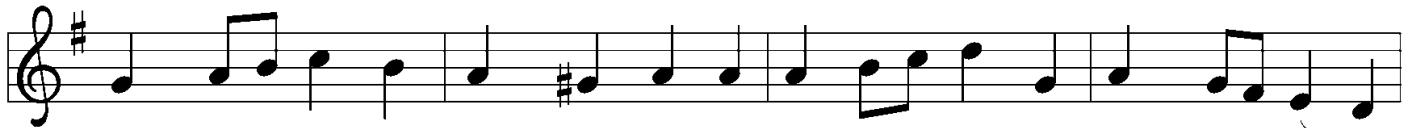
HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 655 Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliiies en Contradansen*, 1710

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

God brings those who are baptized out of death and into life.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Frederick Henry Hammad for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Frederick baptized into Christ? **Parents:** I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Frederick grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Frederick in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? **Sponsors:** I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Frederick and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
We do.

Please stand.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

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, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BAPTISM

Frederick, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Frederick with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Frederick, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME

Congregation President: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

BAPTISM RESPONSE Thy Word Is a Lamp

Michael W. Smith

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near.
Please be near me to the end.

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 monetary, food, and other offerings for God's mission 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 All Glory, Praise, & Blessing (from *Cantata* 167)

J.S. Bach,
arr. Richard Peek

All glory, praise, and blessing
to God the Holy Trinity,
for planting and increasing
our faith in him who set us free,
on whom our trust is grounded,
our house built on a rock,
our life by grace surrounded,
our shepherd's precious flock,
dear children to him clinging,
who welcomed once again,
join saints and angels singing. Amen.

attrib. Köingsberg, 1548; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda

Please stand.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 695 As Saints of Old

Verse 3



3 In grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to - day



to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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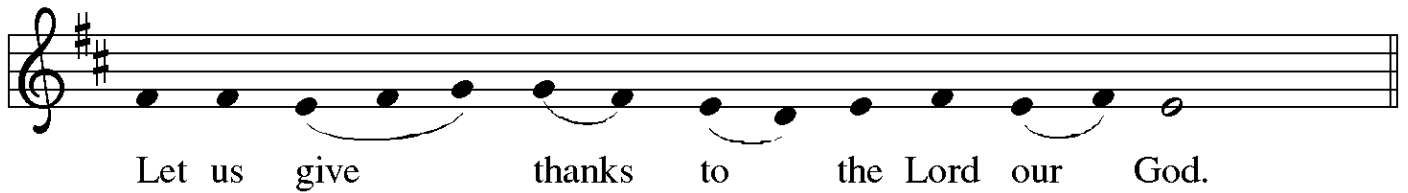
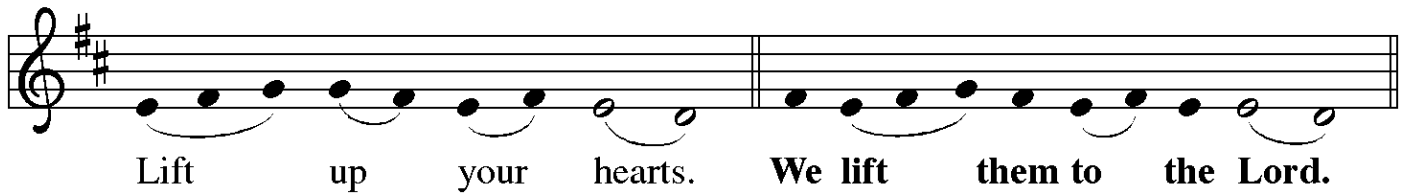
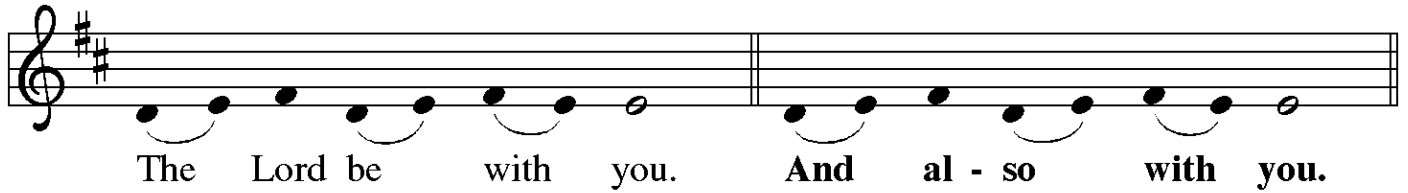
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.**

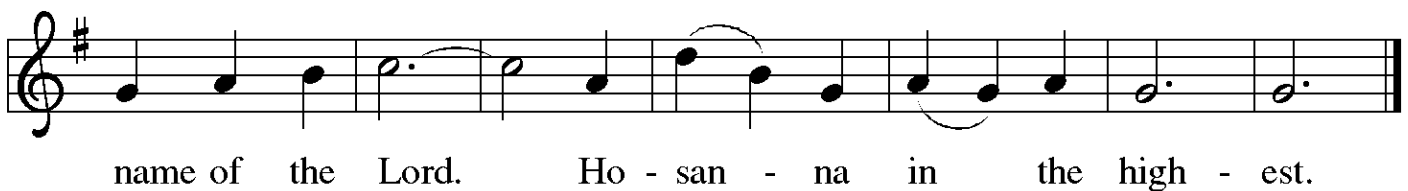
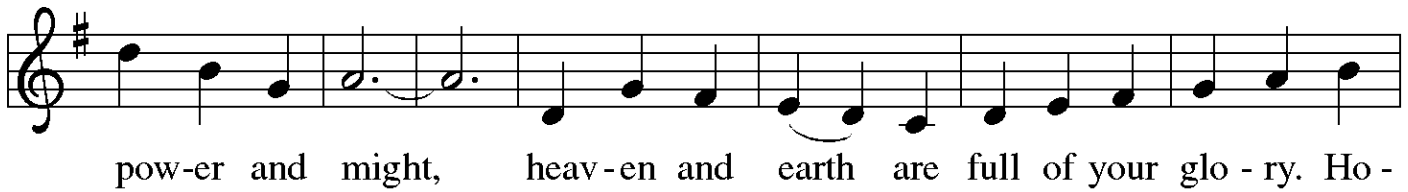
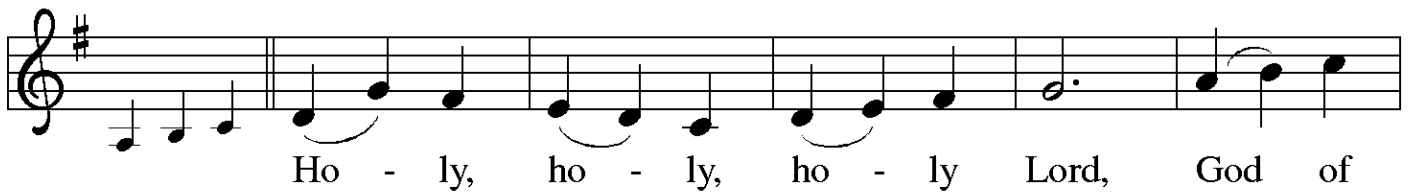
Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PROPER PREFACE



EUCCHARISTIC 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 COMMUNION

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.

The vicar serves the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

The assisting minister serves the wine / grape juice 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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ACS 963 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior,
2 Christ says, "Come, that you may ev - er
3 This be - lieve with faith un - shak - en:
4 Christ says, "Come to me, you wea - ry;
5 Nour - ished, go to thank - ful la - bor,



took our sin a - way for - ev - er,
here re - mem - ber God's great fa - vor.
Je - sus' meal is to be ta - ken
all your bur - dens I will car - ry.
bear - ing fruit in love for neigh - bor.



bear - ing bit - ter grief and pain,
Take this bread, my bod - y; dine.
by all those with hearts dis - tressed,
There is noth - ing you can do
Those you serve can taste from you



free - dom from death for us to gain.
My blood I give for you in wine."
by all who yearn for peace and rest.
to earn this mer - cy; take it new."
what won - ders God in love will do.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, after Jan Hus, c. 1369–1415; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, and Paul Westermeyer, b. 1940

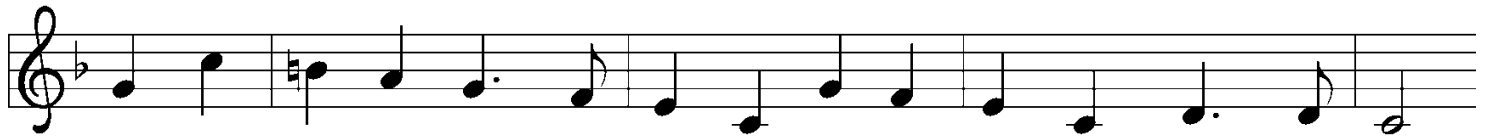
Music: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, Hohenfurt, 1410; *Enrichidion*, Erfurt, 1524

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COMMUNION HYMN ELW 678 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-lor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Please stand.

BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

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 669 Rise Up, O Saints of God!

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Fugue in G ('Gigue'), BWV 577

J.S. Bach

September 18, 2022

TODAY, we welcome the Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, President of United Lutheran Seminary as our guest preacher and leading a forum at **9:00 AM**.

Congregational Retreat—September 30–October 1: Join us for a fun weekend at Cross Roads for activities for all ages, faith formation, building connections with other church members, or simply to connect with nature. We have reserved the entire Christ Center, a modern hotel-like retreat space with private bathrooms. Speak to Pastor Scalet or Jane Bowman with questions. Initial head count numbers are needed **ASAP**.

Children’s Choir TODAY, 9:30-10:00 AM, in the Choir Room. Open to all children ages 5 and up. September 25, October 2, & 9; and we will sing on October 16 at the 10:30 AM service. Have fun, learn basic vocal technique and musical fundamentals, and sing in worship!

Children’s Faith Formation TODAY at 10:00 AM in the Youth Lounge.

Lutherringers TODAY 11:45 AM in the loft, and is open to middle school through adults.

RIC Forum: The SJSM Committee will be hosting a forum **September 25 at 9:00AM** as part of the RIC process, addressing definitions, terminology, and some key historical events. Come learn about this ever-evolving topic and bring your questions!

Bridges Outreach Streets to Homes 5K Run and Walk, Sunday, September 25 at 9:00 AM on the Village Green. It would be great to see some members running or walking in the race, which supports one of our longtime ministry partners. Visit Bridgesoutreach.org to register and join the “St. John’s Team.” Email Brett Tomlinson with questions. You can do the run/walk and still come to worship at 10:30—we don’t mind if you are sweaty or still wearing running shoes!

Shirley Paulson is turning 100! Please send a birthday card for this momentous occasion to: 93 Colfax Road, Springfield, NJ 07081. All are invited to an open house at her home, **September 25 from 12:00 - 3:00 PM**. A group will head over around **1:00 PM** to visit and sing for Shirley.

Family Promise, September. 25–October 1: Meals or gift cards (groceries or Uber/Lyft) are needed. Sign up to volunteer at familypromise.org/what-we-do/fp-union-county, scroll to the bottom of the page to Volunteer Opportunities. Amy Jones, volunteer coordinator, will email you details. Digital gift cards can be emailed to ajones@familypromise.org. Physical cards can be mailed to Family Promise Union County, Attn: Amy Jones, 402 Union Ave., Elizabeth, NJ 07208. Questions may be directed to [Marifel Calis](mailto:Marifel.Calis).

Back to the Basics in the ELCA Class: Pastor Blake will be offering an adult education class, **Tuesdays at 7:00 PM** for six weeks, beginning September 27. Join us for a lively discussion.

Bethlehem NOLA Visit: Pastor Ben Groth will be visiting with us **October 15–16**.

Worship Assistants Needed! Fall brings the return of two services and the Worship Committee needs YOU to serve as Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Assisting Ministers or to be on Altar Guild. All these jobs are essential to worship. Please reach out to Bev Kaczmariski.



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