

September 17, 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

God, our source and our salvation, in love you made us and by love you have redeemed us. Make your love for us bear fruit in our forgiveness of others, that in this life we may know your all-embracing compassion and in the world to come receive the everlasting joy of fellowship you share with your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. 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 Elegy (*Tryptich for Organ*)

Alfred V. Fedak

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.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 835 All Creatures, Worship God Most High



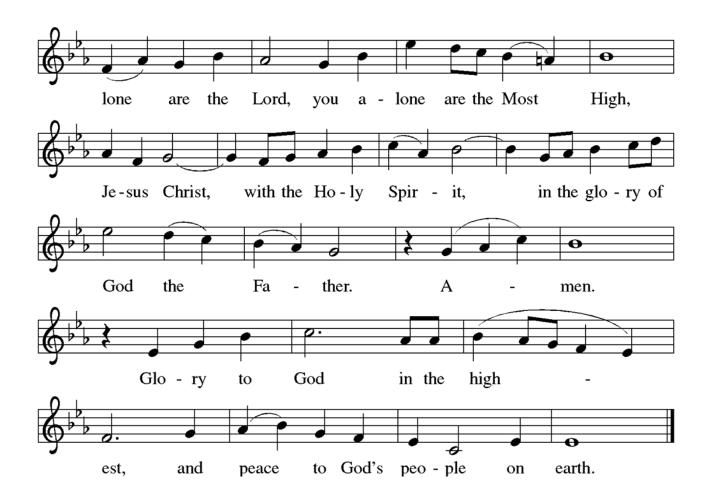
Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Please be seated.

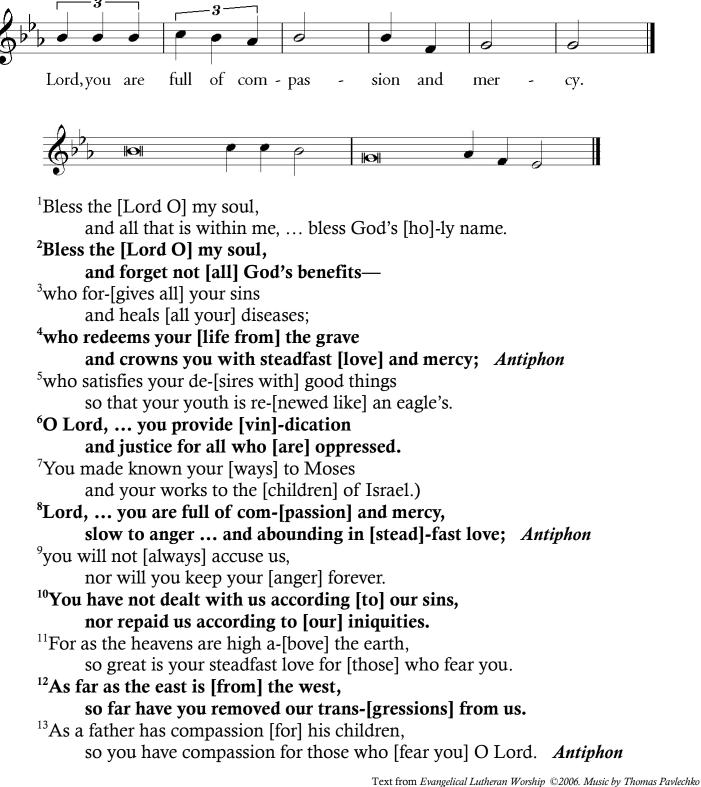
FIRST READING Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

PSALM 103:1-7, 8-13

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



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

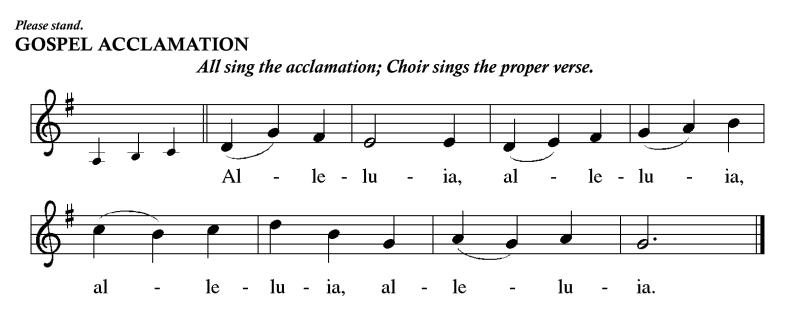
SECOND READING Romans 14:1–12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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



V. We have an advocate, Jesus [|] Christ the righteous;* your sins are forgiven on account [|] of his name. *(1 John 2:1, 12)*

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21–35

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

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

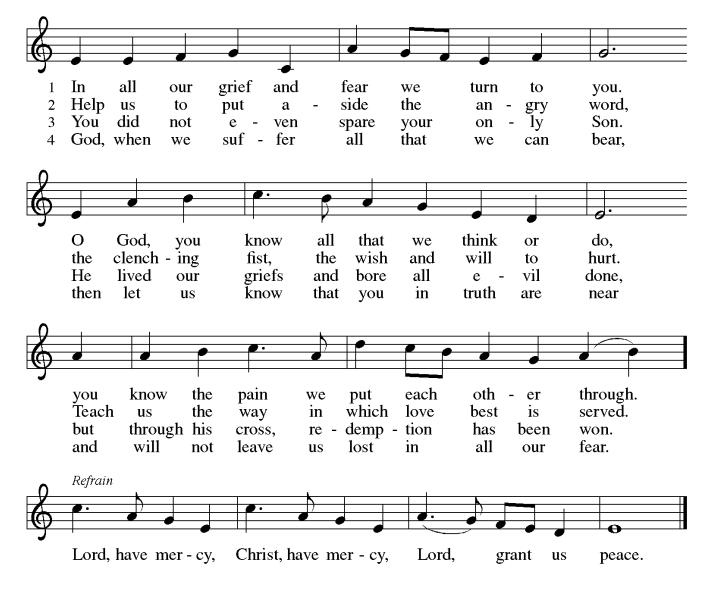
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated. CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand. HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 615 In All Our Grief



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: FREDERICKTOWN, Charles R. Anders, b. 1929
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Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 stand. PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 One in Christ

One in Christ, we meet together, called by Christ himself a part; He alone, our Lord and Brother, makes us one in mind and heart. One in him, we each would offer all we most sincerely prize, Learning, when traditions differ, what it is makes others wise.

One in Christ, may we, his Body, find in him our common creed; As his people, be more ready to respond to others' need. His we are, who, found in fashion as a man, content to serve, Never narrowed his compassion, never asked what we deserve.

One in Christ, may we discover how profound the truth we preach: That in God the good is never something out of human reach. Not by chance the world's creation, not by chance was life begun. God is love: and our vocation is to love till love has won. — Fred Pratt Green

Alfred V. Fedak

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

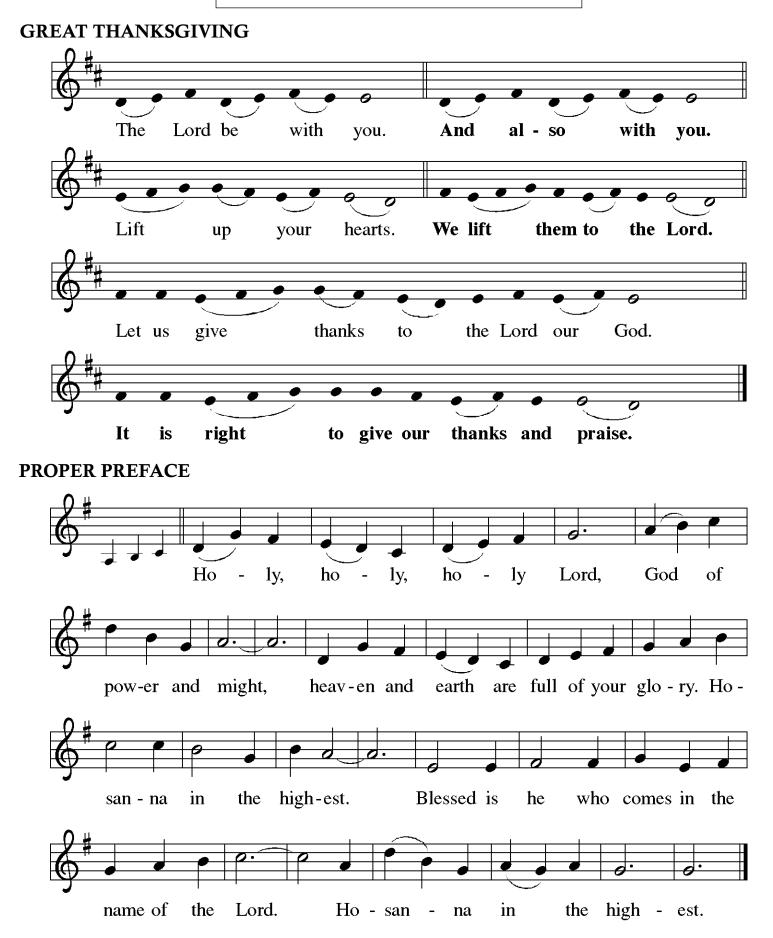


Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt. Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

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.

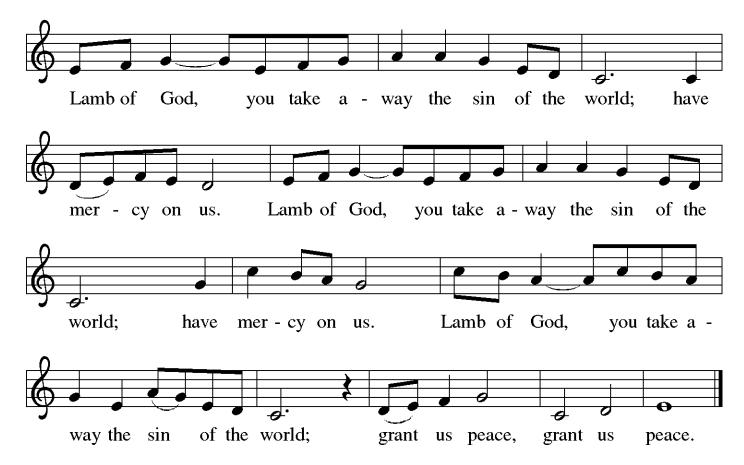
Please be seated.

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 ACS 1049 Before the Waters Nourished Earth



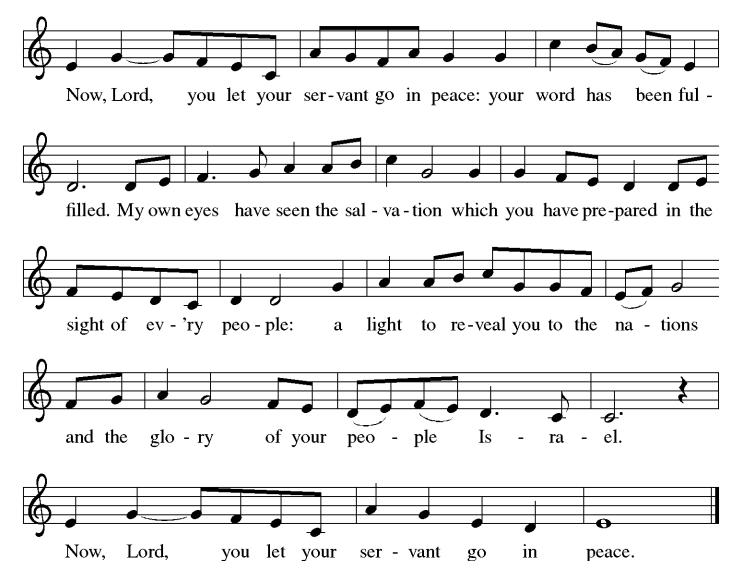
Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Please stand.

BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



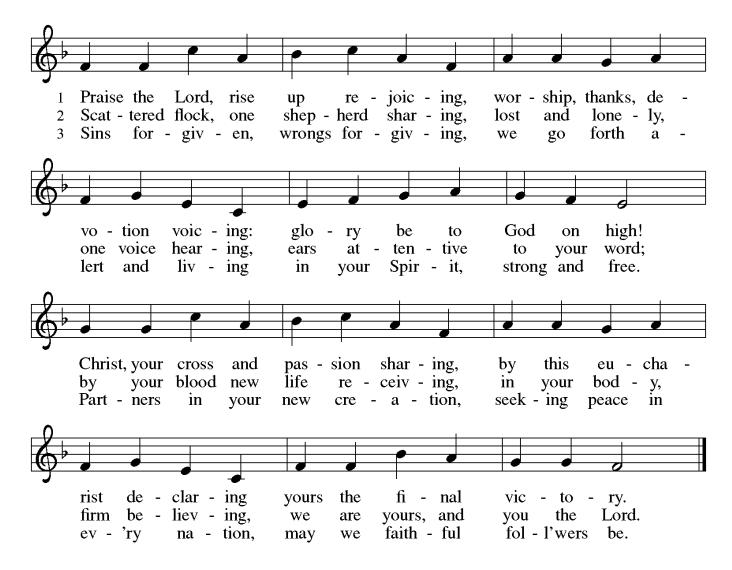
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

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 544 Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing



Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt. Music: ALLES ISTAN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt. Text © Oxford University Press.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Introduction & Toccata (*Tryptich for Organ*)

Alfred V. Fedak



September 17, 2023

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of the memory of the Gahan & Eischen families by Irma Gahan.

Volunteers Needed: Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Assisting Ministers and Altar Guild. All these jobs are essential to worship at Saint John's and all are very simple to do. Please see the weekly email to sign up.

Forum Series 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. Please pray for our confirmands as they explore their Lutheran faith. For more information, contact Pastor Blake.

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.

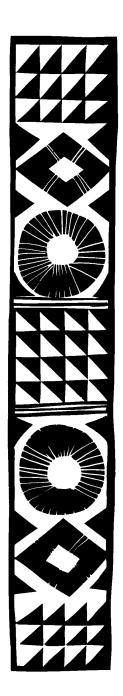
Morris Habitat for Humanity, September 20: Morris Habitat for Humanity is constructing a 12 -unit condominium complex on Morris Avenue, Summit. Construction is well underway, but the project is still experiencing opposition and a great deal of misinformation being communicated by a handful of Summit residents. They are seeking to assemble a group of Habitat for Humanity supporters who live in Summit who can serve as Key Communicators to work with us to ensure that factual information is being shared. Join VIRTUALLY on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Please RSVP in the weekly email.

Luther Ringers Begins September 24: Handbells is open to middle/high school youth and adults. Rehearsals are Sundays at 11:45–12:45 PM.

Fiesta Latina, September 29 from 6:00–9:00 PM: St. John's is a sponsor at Summit's annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration on the Village Green. Join us for food & fun!

SJSM Book Discussion, October 22:The Social Justice/Social Ministry committee will be discussing their fall reading, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by author Matthew Desmond **on October 22 at 9:00 AM**. In this brilliant, heartbreaking book, Desmond takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of eight families on the edge. Discussion will focus on one of the most urgent issues facing America today — housing and dignity. Books are available in the church office for \$12.

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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