

ALL ARE WELCOME



**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Homecoming Sunday**

September 19, 2021 | 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 St. John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor
Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music
Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator
Jessica Damrow Sherman, Communications Coordinator
Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation
Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton
Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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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

Your Word is our wisdom; it gives us insight, strength, and courage.
Open our hearts and our minds on this day, that we might receive what you want to give.
Speak, Lord! Your people listen! Amen.

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

Gathering

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

PRELUDE “His Eye is on the Sparrow”

Arr. by Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG ACS 978 God Welcomes All

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'God Welcomes All'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system has lyrics: 'God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;'. The second system has lyrics: 'God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many chords and some melodic lines.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: AMEN THEMBA, South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell.
Text and transcription © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Please stand.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;

The world, and those who live in it.

O come, let us sing to the Lord

Let us shout for joy to rock of our salvation!

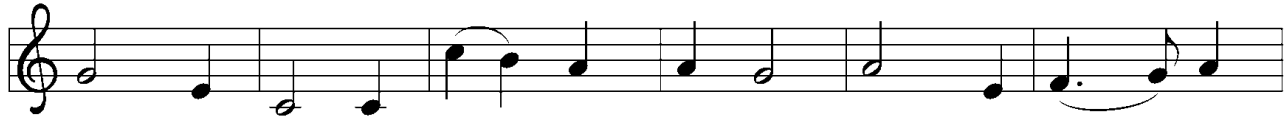
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving,

And raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

Surely, God is in this place!

Let us worship God.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 526 God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
Text © 1979 and Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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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

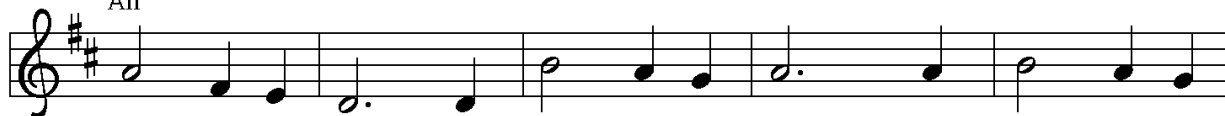
Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



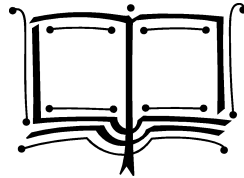
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of 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 Jeremiah 11:18–20

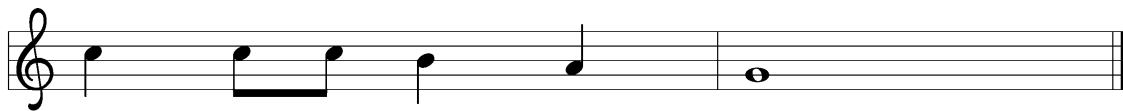
¹⁸It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, “Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!” ²⁰But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

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

PSALM 54:1–4



God is my help - er; it is the



Lord who sus - tains my life.

¹Save me, O God, ¹ by your name;
in your might, de- ¹ fend my cause.

²Hear my ¹ prayer, O God;
give ear to the words ¹ of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me,
and the ruthless have ¹ sought my life,
those who have no re- ¹ gard for God.

⁴Behold, God ¹ is my helper;
it is the Lord who sus- ¹ tains my life. R

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1038 God, We Gather as Your Children



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** *Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.*

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 and this congregation's ministry. 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, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC "For the Least" By Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

Laura Snyder, soprano Andrew Larsen, tenor

What can we offer to a God who lacks nothing?

How are we to serve a God our eyes cannot see?

Jesus has given us an answer to ponder:

"What you do unto others, you do unto me."

For the least of our brothers and the least of our sisters

Have a place that is special in our Savior's heart.

As we welcome and greet them, as we clothe them and feed them,

We serve Jesus, who calls us now to listen and do our part.

Hear our vows and our pledges to serve those at the edges,

Those who suffer and cower in the dark of night.

May God give us the Spirit, may we all clearly hear it:

How our God is still calling us to listen and make things right.

Find the lost, find the least, make them welcome at the feast.

"What you do unto others, you do unto me."

Please stand.

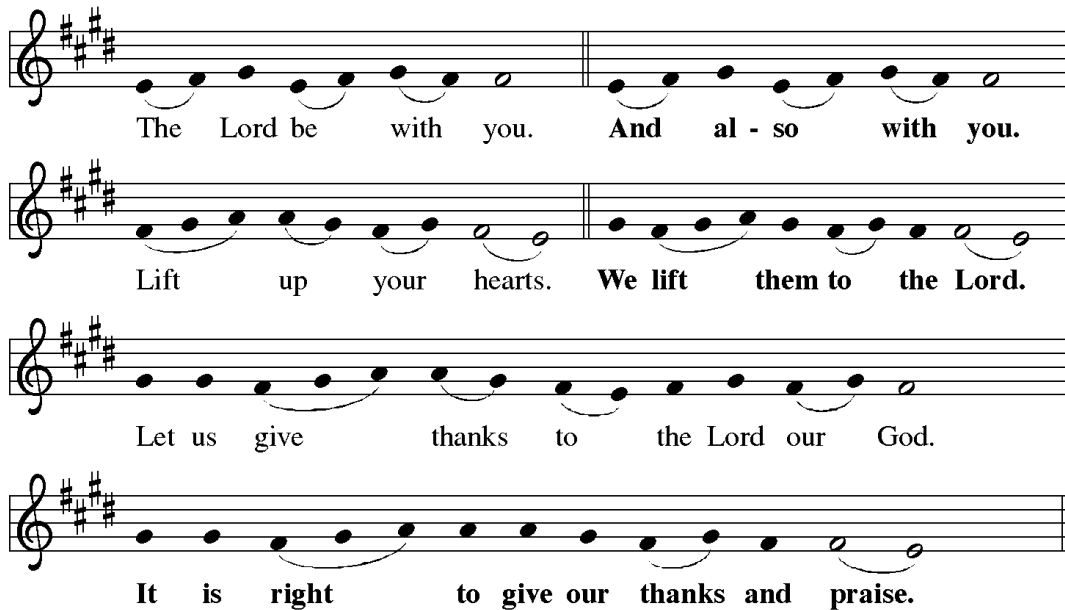
OFFERING PRAYER

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

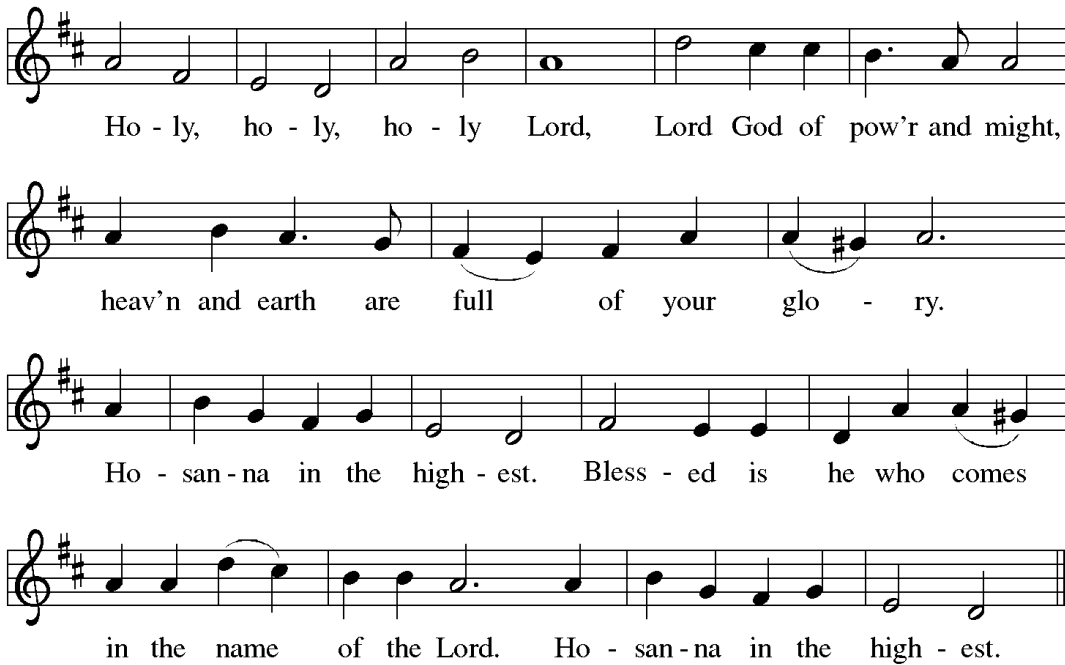
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE



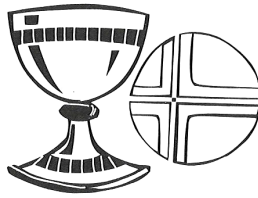
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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 assisting minister serves the wine / grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.
You may pick up your personal cup, being careful to only touch that cup.
Step aside and drink the wine, placing the used cup in the return tray.*

***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 ELW 595 Jesus Loves Me!

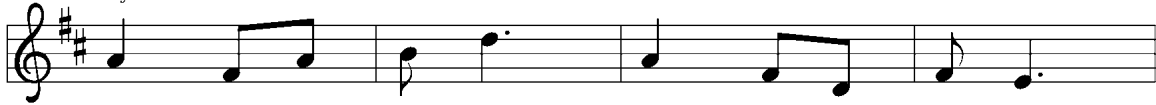


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

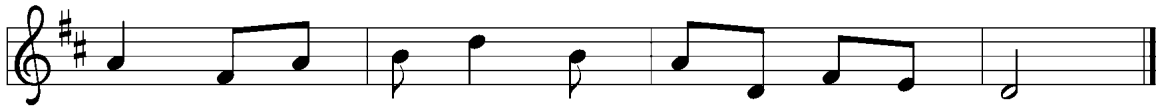


lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
 Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 781 Children of the Heavenly Father



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
 Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, 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



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence, nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table. Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart, serve our neighbors with a willing spirit, and honor the earth you have made; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



Sending

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

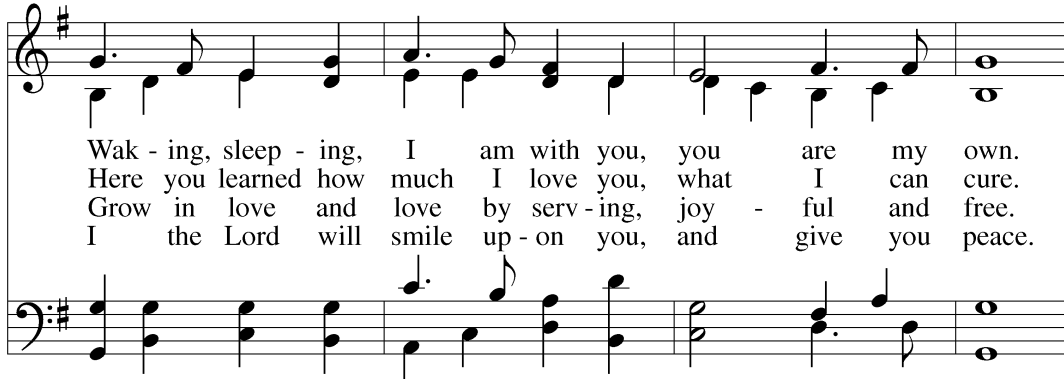
BLESSING

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus our Lord. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

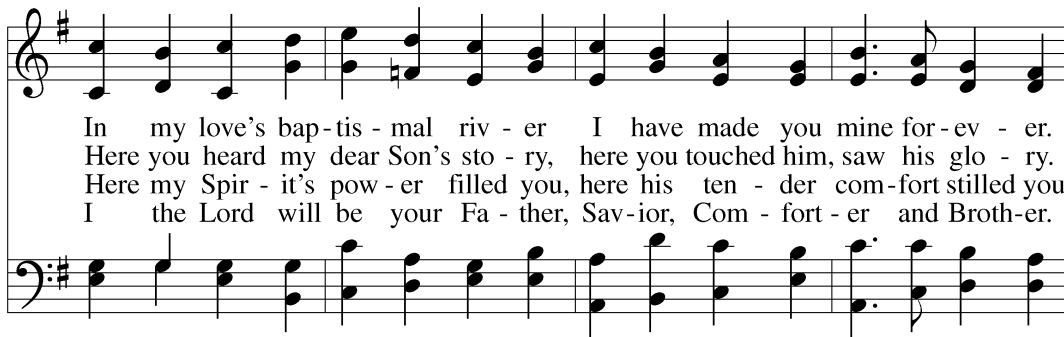
SENDING HYMN WOV 721 Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
 4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
 I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."
 Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, (1919-2008) © 1983 Concordia Publishing House
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh Traditional, arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Festive Trumpet Tune

By David German (b. 1954)

September 19, 2021

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Upcoming Music Ensemble Rehearsals: Lutherringers: **Sunday, September 26, 12:00 PM**, Recorder Ensemble: **Wednesday, September 29, 7:00 PM**. Adult Choir rehearses Wednesdays. 7:45 PM in Hinman Hall. Please join us!

Family Promise Volunteer Opportunity, September 19–26: St. John's will be virtually hosting Family Promise families currently in temporary shelter apartments during COVID. Meal preparation/deliveries and gift cards are needed. Please contact Marifel Calis for information on how you can help.

St. John's Youth Group - First Meeting on September 26, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Youth Lounge. We will be discussing climate change and environmental issues. All teens in middle and high school are welcome to attend! Pizza will be provided so please RSVP to [Kirsten Meyer](#) to ensure we order enough!

Black Lutheran History Forum Series, Sundays, September 26, October 3 & 10, 9:00 AM in Hinman Hall, hosted by the Anti-Racism Committee. We will be digging into the untold, story of the Black Lutherans and the Lutheran Church's complicated relationship with people of African descent. This forum is part of the Bishop's Jehu Jones Challenge.

Bridges Outreach Streets to Homes 5K Run and Walk is Sunday, October 3. St. John's is an official sponsor! It would be great to see some members running or walking in the race, which **begins at 8:30 AM on the Village Green in Summit**. If you have any questions, please email [Brett Tomlinson](#).

Hurricane Relief: Hurricane Ida hit home, in more ways than one. Among the many impacted were three of our sister organizations: Family Promise of Union County, St. Stephan's in Newark and Bethlehem New Orleans. Send a donation to St. John's either [online](#) or by check, earmarked "Hurricane Ida Relief," and St. John's will match your contribution dollar for dollar, splitting the total contribution three ways among the organizations. Every dollar helps!

Building Updates Over the past few months, we have made significant updates to our facility! These include installing a state-of-the-art sound and livestream system, installing a new retaining wall to the rear of the property, and new floors in the education wing. The choir loft air conditioning should be replaced in the coming weeks. Make sure to take a look!

Giving Is Important. We count on your generous offerings to continue to do our robust ministry. Please give generously. You may [give online](#) or mail checks to the church.

All Creation Sings Hymn Introductions by Scott Weidler

God Welcomes All: Simple but rich, "God welcomes all" irresistibly draws the people of God into song. It comes to North American congregations by way of the Iona Community, an ecumenical community whose transnational worship incorporates the music of diverse Christians around the globe. Iona musician John Bell first encountered the tune in South Africa at Themba Hospice, which cares for people with HIV and AIDS. "God welcomes all" is an excellent call to worship for small and large gatherings alike, reminding the singing community that God's love is vast enough to welcome everyone.

God, We Gather as Your People: The writer of this hymn, liturgical composer David Lohman, creates sacred music to affirm the gifts of LGBTQIA+ people within and beyond the church. "God, we gather as your people" expresses support for LGBTQIA+ children as they discern and grow into their identities. The hymn prays for a safe, affirming church and world to reflect the welcome that God already extends. It also commits the worshiping community to the holy work of hospitality.