

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
September 24, 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

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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[jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org)

[wk154linda@gmail.com](mailto: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

Gracious God, your Word surprises, challenges, upsets, and overturns our way of seeing and thinking. Come and find us today wherever we are, however we are. By the power of your Holy Spirit, cause that which is withering in us to blossom and that which is exacting in us to broaden until we see as you see, and thereby glimpse the kingdom you are bringing.

In Christ's name 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** Berceuse

Louis Vierne

**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 845 Voices Raised to You



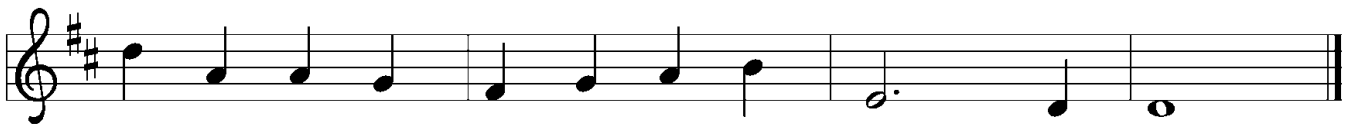
1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for  
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your  
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with  
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -  
 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute  
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,  
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,  
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;  
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

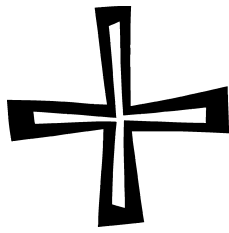
Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

Text © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)

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Music © 1996 Carolyn Jennings



## 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. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity 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** Jonah 3:10--4:11

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

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

PSALM 145:1–8

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



The Lord is slow to an - ger and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, ... my [God] and king,  
and bless your name for-[ever] and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every [day will] I bless you  
and praise your name for-[ever] and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD... and greatly [to] be praised!  
There is no [end to] your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your [works to] another  
and shall de-[clare] your power. *Antiphon***

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor [of] your majesty  
and all your [marv']-lous works.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your [won]-drous acts,  
and I will re-[count] your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of [your] great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully [of] your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and [full of] compassion,  
slow to anger ... and abounding in [stead]-fast love. *Antiphon***

Text from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* ©2006. Music by Thomas Pavlechko  
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**SECOND READING** Philippians 1:21–30

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*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. Open our <sup>1</sup> hearts, O Lord,\* to give heed to what is said <sup>1</sup> by your Son.

## GOSPEL Matthew 20:1–16

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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 588 There's A Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## **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](http://www.stjohnssummit.org) or scan this code.*



### **OFFERING MUSIC** Cantate Domino

Giuseppe Pitoni

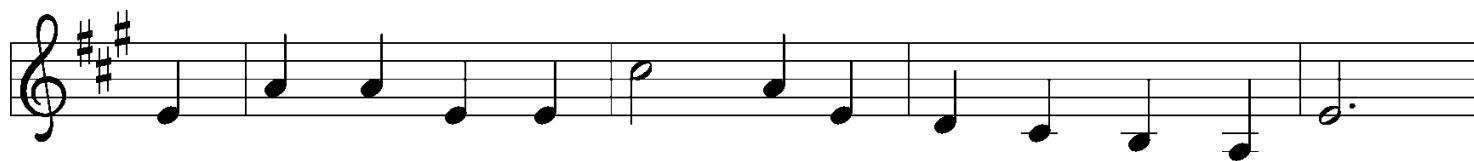
*Cantate Domino canticum novum;  
laus ejus in ecclesia sanctorum.  
Laetetur Israël in eo qui fecit eum,  
et filii Sion exsultent in rege suo.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,  
God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let Israel rejoice in their maker;  
let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.

Psalm 149: 1–2

OFFERING HYMN ELW 681 We Plow the Fields and Scatter

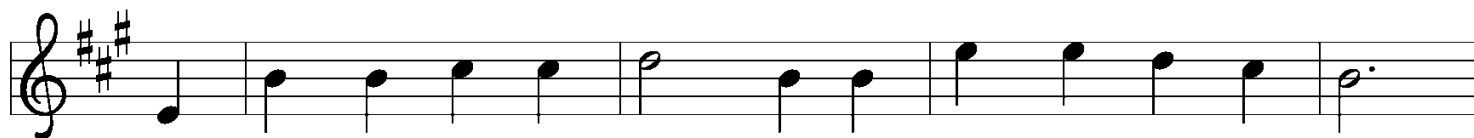
*Verse 3*



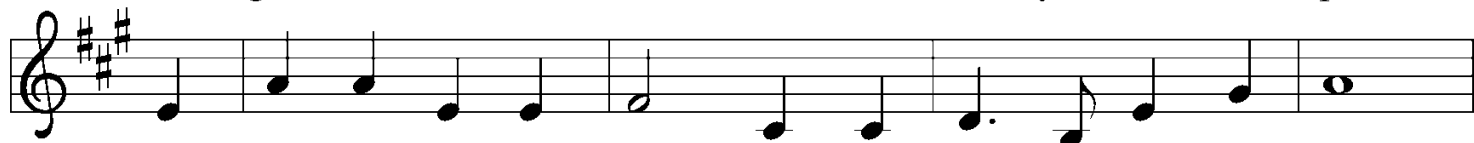
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank-ful hearts.



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

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.*

### 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.

The musical notation consists of four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff has two measures: "The Lord be with you." and "And al - so with you." The second staff also has two measures: "Lift up your hearts." and "We lift them to the Lord." The third and fourth staves each have one measure: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." and "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

### PROPER PREFACE

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical notation consists of four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff has two measures: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of". The second staff has two measures: "pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -". The third staff has two measures: "san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the". The fourth staff has two measures: "name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

# 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.*

*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.*

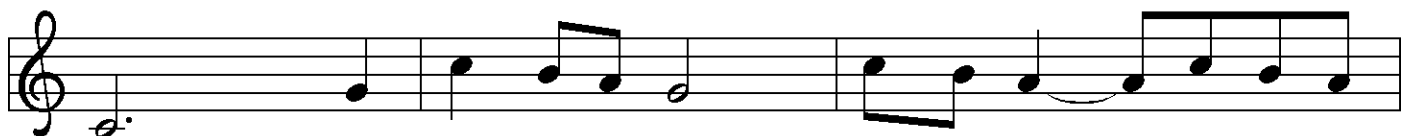
## LAMB OF GOD



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 765 Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*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 876 Let the Whole Creation Cry



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"  
2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,  
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"  
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.  
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"  
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE** Prelude in F

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

**September 24, 2023**

**Today's altar flowers** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Rick Coble's birthday by the Coble family.

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

**We need food donations for our fellowship time** (Sundays from 9:00 AM–12 Noon), homemade or store-bought–baked goods/bagels, fruit/veggies, and cheese & crackers are just some ideas. This is a major community building endeavor of the church that we all enjoy, therefore, we all need to pitch in and support this ministry. 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. Feedback is solicited by the ELCA following these sessions.

**Children's Choir TODAY at 9:30 AM and Faith Formation at 10:00 AM.** All children are welcome. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings or Deacon Walker for more information.

**The 1619 Project:** The Anti-Racism Committee will be hosting viewings of the documentary "The 1619 Project" on **Mondays, September 25 & October 2 from 7:00-9:00 PM.** This week's episode will look at the profound contribution of African Americans to the world of music. This week's tasting menu includes: shrimp & grits, fried green tomatoes, and bread pudding.

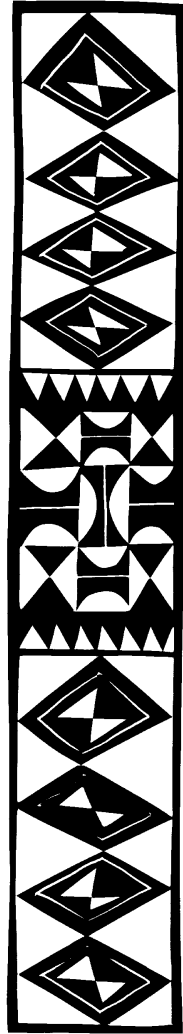
**Luther Ringers, TODAY:** Handbells is open to middle/high school youth and adults. Rehearsals are Sundays at 11:45–12:45 PM.

**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.

**Dunkin' or Starbucks Gift Cards are needed** for college care packages. Please drop off \$10 cards in the church office by **October 22.** If you have a college student, please contact Jama Bowman with their address.

**NJ Synod Youth Retreat, November 17–19** at the Sheraton Edison. All youth grades 6–12 and their adult leaders are invited to join us for a weekend of faith, fellowship, and fun! The theme this year is REJOICE! The cost is \$225 per person and includes hotel, meals, t-shirt, snacks and programming. Register in the weekly email by **October 30, 2023.**



**SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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