



**Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
November 12, 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

O great and loving God, your wisdom is radiant and unfading, easily discerned by all who seek your way. When faithful men and women live in love and work for justice, heaven breaks into earth. Give us the grace to live confidently and expectantly, trusting that the Lord of history, who has been approaching from all eternity, comes into life continually with compassion, redemption, and hope. 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** Little Three Part Fantasy

Michael Starke

Recorder Choir

## 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.**

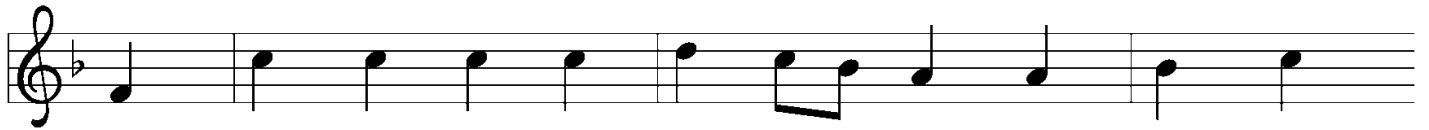
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*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 441 Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the  
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -  
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and  
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n-ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the  
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which  
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and  
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.  
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.  
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.  
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797-1866; tr. composite  
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561  
Text © 1958, 1978 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

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

*Refrain*  
hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

*Refrain*  
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST READING Amos 5:18–24

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; <sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. <sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? <sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. <sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. <sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

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

## PSALM 70

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



<sup>1</sup>Be pleased O [God to] deliver me;

O LORD make [haste] to help me.

<sup>2</sup>Let those who seek my life be put to [shame and] confounded;

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune ...

draw back and [be] disgraced. *Antiphon*

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” ... and [gloat] over me  
turn back be-[cause of] their shame.

<sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you re-[jounce and] be glad in you;

let those who love your salvation say forever, ... [“Great is] the LORD!”

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, ... I am poor and needy; ...

come to me [quickly] O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; ...

O [LORD do] not tarry. *Antiphon*

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

## SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*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. Shine like stars <sup>1</sup> in the world,\* holding fast to the <sup>1</sup> word of life. (Phil. 2:15, 16)

## GOSPEL Matthew 25:1–13

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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 ACS 949 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the  
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

## *Refrain*



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual



## **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.*

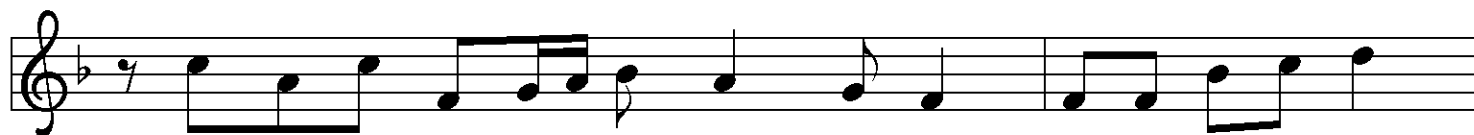


**OFFERING MUSIC** Sleepers Wake (*St. Paul, op. 36, no. 16*) Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Sleepers, wake! A voice is calling,  
it is the watchman on the walls:  
thou city of Jerusalem!  
For lo! The Bridegroom comes!  
Arise, and take your lamps!  
Hallelujah!  
Awake! His kingdom is at hand!  
Go forth, go forth to meet your Lord!

– Philip Nicolai (1556-1608)

**OFFERTORY** ELW 186 Create I Me a Clean Heart



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



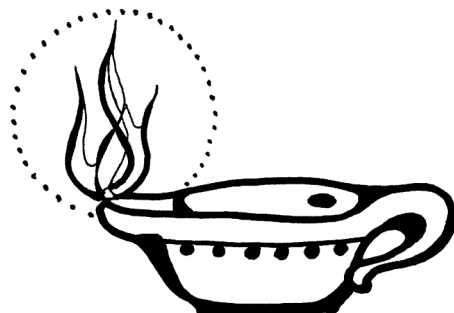
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of



your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

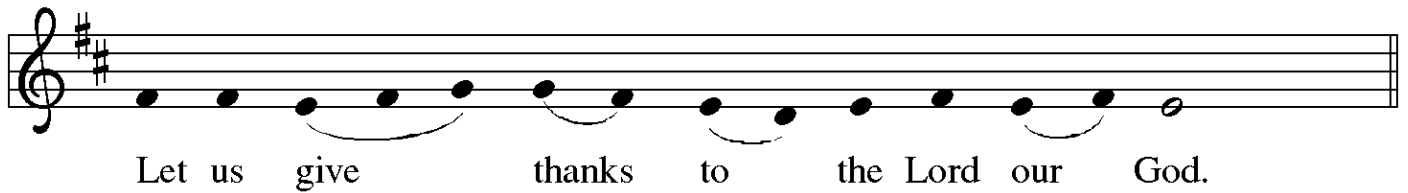
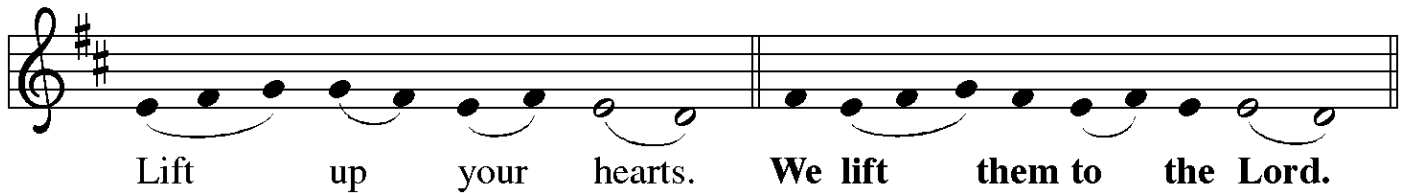
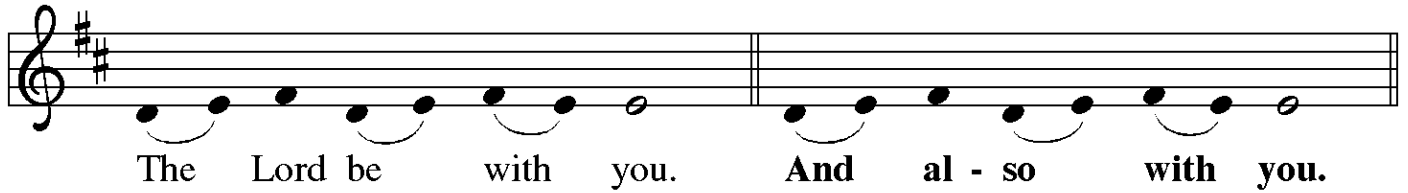
Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.



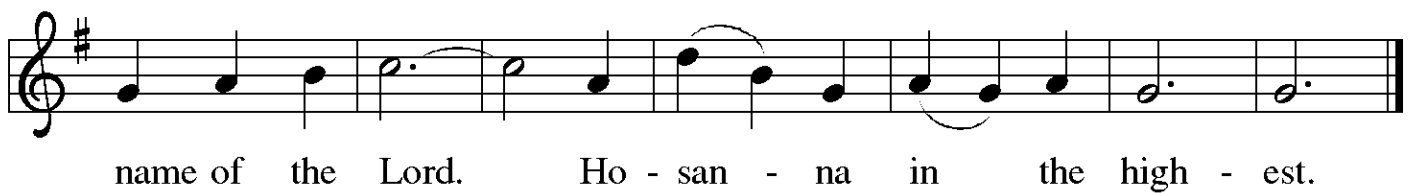
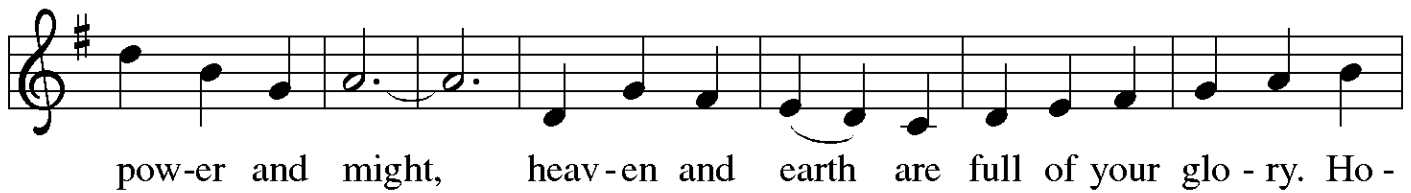
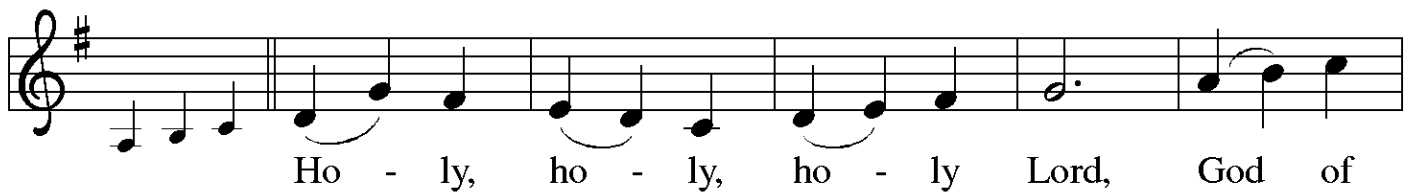
## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



### PROPER PREFACE



## 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 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.*

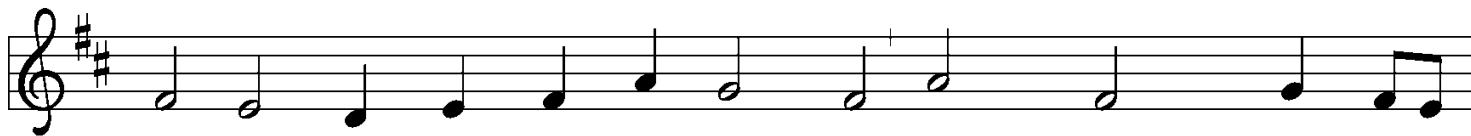
*All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.*

*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.

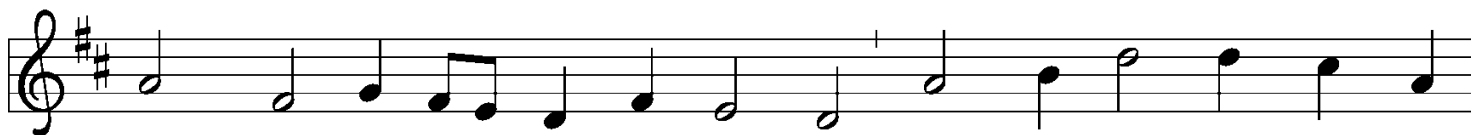
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 488 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y  
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and  
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -  
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,  
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;  
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less  
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -  
quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed  
though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of  
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav' n - ly,  
por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your  
heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious  
fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."  
con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

*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, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Sending

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

### BLESSING

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God—Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit—be with you now and forevermore. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN ELW 785 When Peace Like a River



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

#### *Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888  
Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE Allegro e vivace (*Sonata IV*)

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

**November 12, 2023**

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

**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.

**ASP 2024:** We are heading to a county in Virginia June 30–July 6, 2024! Interested youth (at least 13 years old and graduated 8<sup>th</sup> grade by the time of the trip) as well as potential adult leaders/chaperones, see or email Laura Snyder, ASP Coordinator: njsnyders5@verizon.net.

**We need food donations for our fellowship time:** Store-bought or homemade–baked goods/bagels, fruit/veggies, and cheese & crackers are just some ideas. See the weekly email to sign up.

**Family Promise Collection, through November 19:** We are collecting **at least 100** cleaning items to support homeless families. Bring in items such as: disinfectant wipes/spray, dish soap, sponges, toilet cleaner, kitchen spray cleaner, bathroom cleaners, and window cleaner.

**Forum, TODAY at 9:00 AM:** Leaders from SAGE Eldercare will share information about their Meals on Wheels program which our congregation has long supported.

**Summit Warm Hearts Meal Prep, TODAY,** following the 10:30 AM service.

**Chancel Work Volunteers, TODAY:** We will be making some modifications to the chancel to give us more flexibility and increased safety for our choir. The property committee will be removing the uppermost level of the chancel so that the whole chancel is one level. This is an interim modification until planning and budget allow for more holistic sanctuary renovations. This will be done in-house by members and at minimal cost, but we need help. The work begins **TODAY** and continues each subsequent evening. Contact Andrew Larsen if you want to help.

**The Summit Interfaith Council Anti-Racism Committee** is having a virtual book discussion on *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation* by Linda Villarosa on **Thursday, November 16 at 7:00 PM.** See the weekly email to register.

**Consecration Sunday, November 19:** Our fall stewardship season is underway. God has blessed us to be a blessing and every member is asked to prayerfully consider how they will commit to the work of this congregation and fill out a pledge card today.

**Church Thanksgiving, November 19 after the 10:30 service:** We will provide the turkey, you bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share.

**We are having a Christmas Market on December 2 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** to support the Bethlehem Builds affordable housing project. See the weekly email for more information and contact Jane Bowman if you are interested.

**Looking Ahead: Lessons & Carols & St. John's 115 Anniversary, December 10 at 4:00 PM.**

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**SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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