

Reformation Sunday

October 29, 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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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

Dear Lord God, give me your grace that I may rightly understand your Word, and more than that, do it. O most blessed Lord Jesus Christ, see to it that my search after knowledge leads me to glorify you alone. If not, let me not know a single letter.

Give only what I, a poor sinner, need to glorify you. Amen.

Martin Luther (1483–1546)

Gathering

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

PRELUDE Koralpartiter on *Kirken den er et Gammelt Hus*

Finn Viderø

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God, imploring in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence for reflection.

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer: we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. To you alone do we seek refuge in your infinite mercy. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to us; forgive us our sins, and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your Word, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of Christ, and by his authority, I declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

All who believe and are baptized shall be saved. **Grant this, O Lord, unto us all. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat -'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Word

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

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31–34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

God is our refuge and strength,
 a very present help in trouble.
 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
 and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
 though its waters rage and foam,
 and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
 The Lord of hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
 the holy habitation of the Most High.
 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
 God shall help it at the break of day.
 The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
 God speaks, and the earth melts away.
 The Lord of hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
 Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
 what desolations God has brought upon the earth;
 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
 who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
 “Be still, then, and know that I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”
 The Lord of hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND READING Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

Please stand.

GOSPEL PROCESSION ELW 509 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

God's word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for - ev - er;

to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief en - deav - or.

Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay. Lord, grant while

time shall last your church may hold it fast through-out all gen - er - a - tions.

GOSPEL John 8:31–36

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

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.

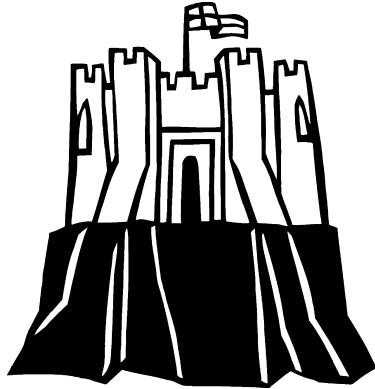
³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet



God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46: 1, 7

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 652 Built on a Rock



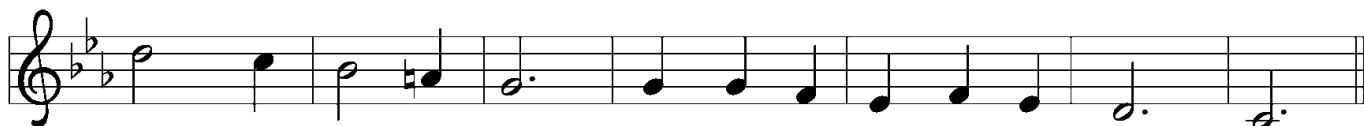
1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
ring - ing, man - y may come to hear your Word, who here this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
prom - ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men."

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.

Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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 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 Awake My Heart

Jane Marshall

Awake, my heart, and render,
To God thy sure defender,
Thy Maker, thy preserver,
A song of love and fervor.

Confirm my deeds and guide me:
My day, with thee beside me,
Beginning, middle, ending,
Will all be upward tending.

My heart shall be thy dwelling,
With joy and gladness swelling;
Thy word my nature giv'n
To bring me on toward heaven.

–Paul Gerhardt

Please stand.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

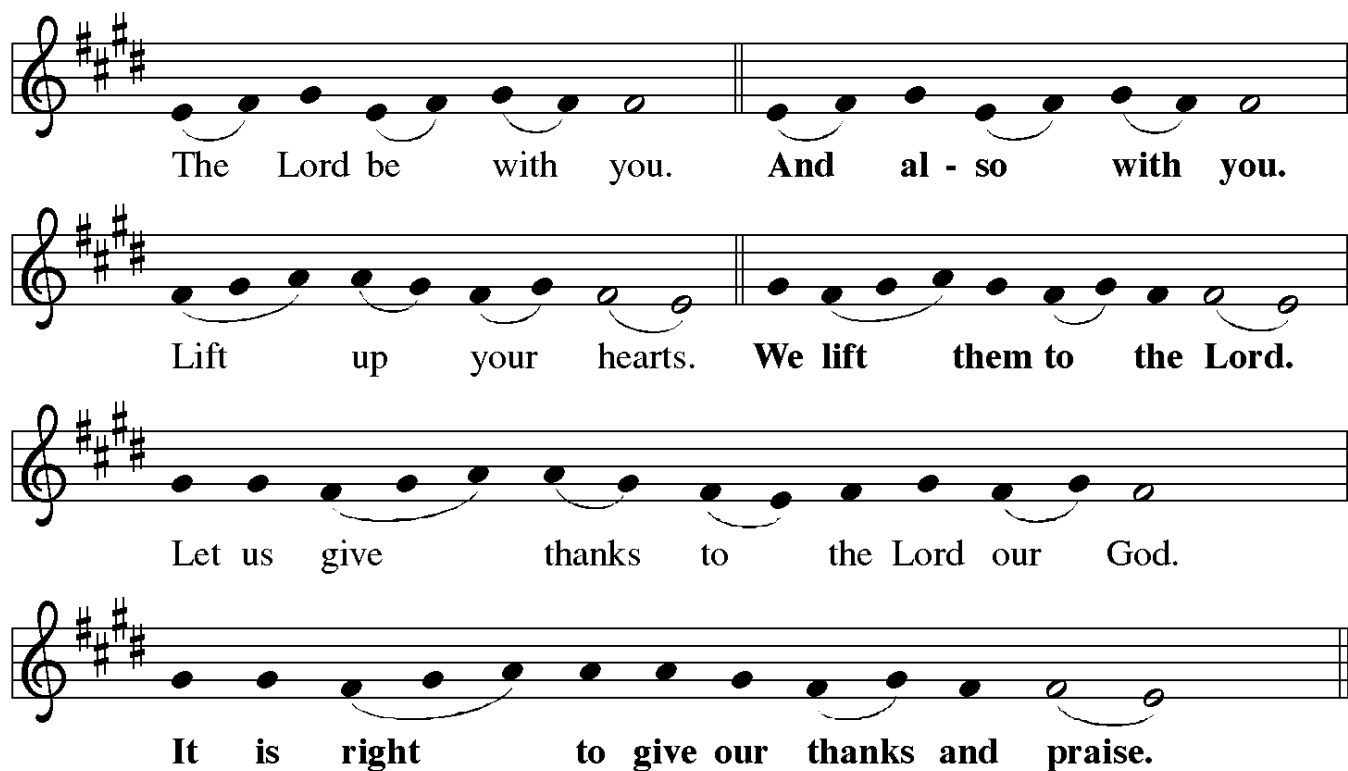
OFFERING PRAYER

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

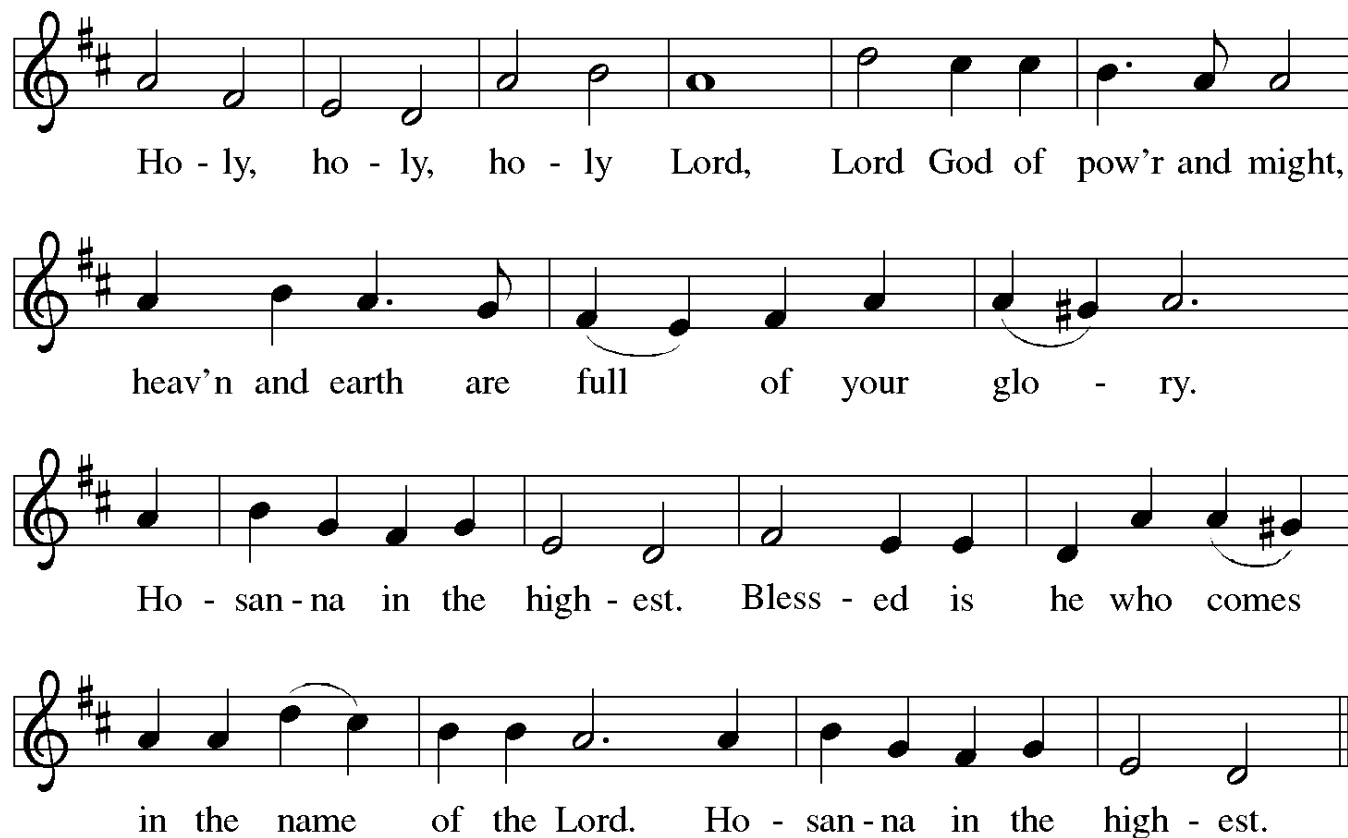
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.



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



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



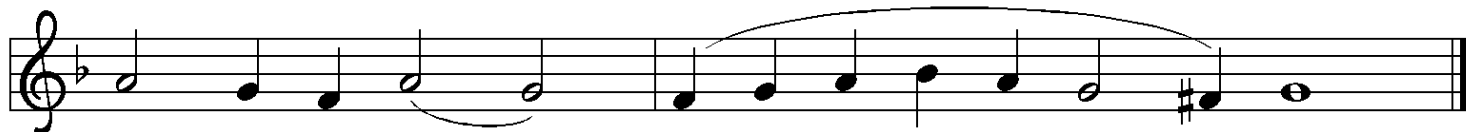
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take



a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - - men.

COMMUNION HYMN ACS 1035 Though the Earth Shall Change



Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,



though the wa - ters rage, you, God, are here.



Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,



though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.

Text: Rolf Vegdahl, b. 1955, and Tom Witt, b. 1957, based on Psalm 46
Music: WE WILL NOT FEAR, Tom Witt
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Please stand.

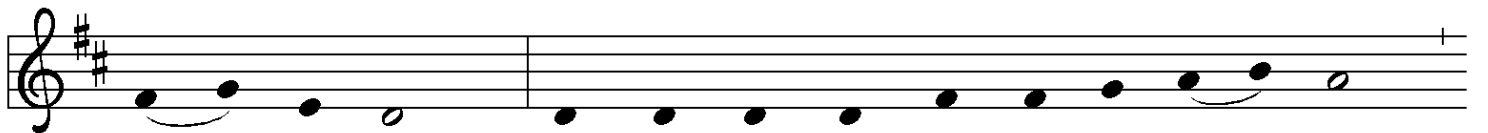
BLESSING

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

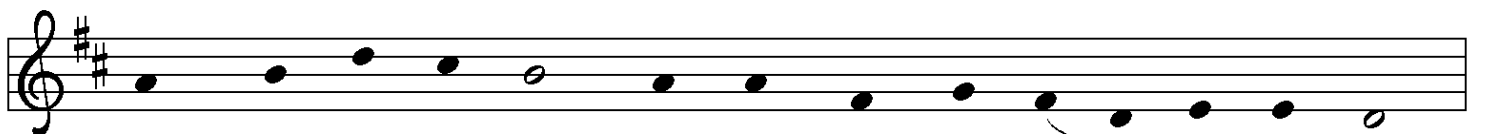
POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



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. Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son,
 and to the Ho-ly Spir-it, as it was in the be-gin-ning,
 is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

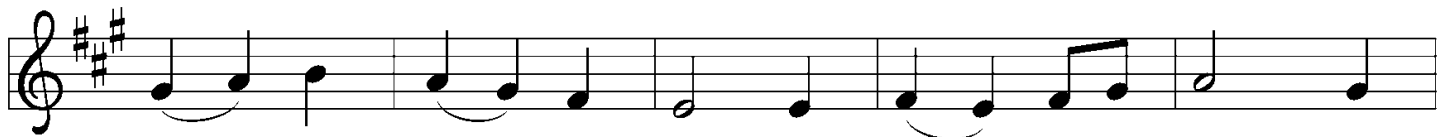
BLESSING

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 ELW 729 The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565

J.S. Bach

October 29, 2023

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

Forum TODAY at 9:00 AM with member Katie Sharpe, behavioral therapist on the Opioid Crisis.

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.

Reformation Choral Vespers, TODAY at 4:00 PM. Join us for contemplative reflection and moving singing by the St. John's Choir on this festival day.

All Saints Day: Names of loved ones or friends who have died in the past year can be submitted to the church office by **TODAY** to be included in the November 5 bulletin.

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

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, October 29–November 19: We are collecting **at least 100** cleaning items to support homeless families through Family Promise. Bring in items such as: disinfectant wipes/spray, dish soap, sponges, toilet cleaner, kitchen spray cleaner, bathroom cleaners, and window cleaner.

Summit Warm Hearts hosting begins November 2 on Thursday and Friday evenings.

Meal Prep for Summit Warm Hearts: We will be making meals to freeze on **Sunday, November 12** immediately following the 10:30 AM service. Contact Jama Bowman if you are interested in joining us or helping us to cover the cost of these meals.

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.

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. There will be many outside craft vendors set up. Our congregation also plans to have a large array of items for sale with all profits going to Bethlehem Builds. Here's how you can help: Donations of Christmas crafts, baked goods for the bake sale, Christmas wrap, bows, tissue paper, bags, tape, volunteers to help prepare sale items, set-up, clean-up, and work the event. Please contact Jane Bowman if you are interested.



SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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