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## GATHERING

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

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### Prelude

### Bells

### Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

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 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

**"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

**ELW # 632**

### 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.**

# Canticle of Praise

## Setting 4

*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

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture and preaching; we respond in profession of faith and prayer*

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### First Reading: Jeremiah 31:27-34

<sup>27</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. <sup>28</sup>And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. <sup>29</sup>In those days they shall no longer say: "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge."  
<sup>30</sup>But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It 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. <sup>33</sup>But 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.

<sup>34</sup>No 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 121



Psalm 121:2

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Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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- <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills;  
from where is my | help to come?
- <sup>2</sup>**My help comes | from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**
- <sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
- <sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel  
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**
- <sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you;  
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;
- <sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike | you by day,  
nor the | moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,  
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

## **Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5**

*Paul continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.*

<sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

<sup>4:1</sup>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup>proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup>As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



*Paul Instructing Timothy*  
*religiousaffections.org*

## Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Cantor:* The word of God is liv- | ing and active,\* able to judge the thoughts and intentions | of the heart. (*Heb. 4:12*)

## The Holy Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

*Jesus tells a parable of a hateful judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.*

The good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup>He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup>In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.'  
<sup>4</sup>For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"  
<sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

*Children are invited to go to their Sunday lesson and activity. They will return at Holy Communion. Parents are welcome to accompany them.*

**Sermon**

**Rev. Louise Shaw**

**Hymn of the Day**

**"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"**

**ELW # 659**

## Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, 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

*Each petition concludes: "Lord, in your mercy." The congregation responds: "**hear our prayer.**"*

*We hold in prayer: Dwan Warner, Jane Crenwelge, Family of Kevin Moore, Chris Gates, Karon Byrd, Danny Myers, Maria Dew, Betty D'Spain, Jet Smith, Frances Bara, Bob Cauble, Mary Ann Spivey.*

*For prayer request updates, please contact the church office by phone or email at (210) 223-2611 or [info@StJohnsSA.org](mailto:info@StJohnsSA.org)*

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(Please share with those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")*



*Peace Dove Painting by Erin Kuzmeskus*

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## MEAL

*We bring our "first fruit" offerings to the Table of the Lord  
where we are strengthened and nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ*

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**Offering**

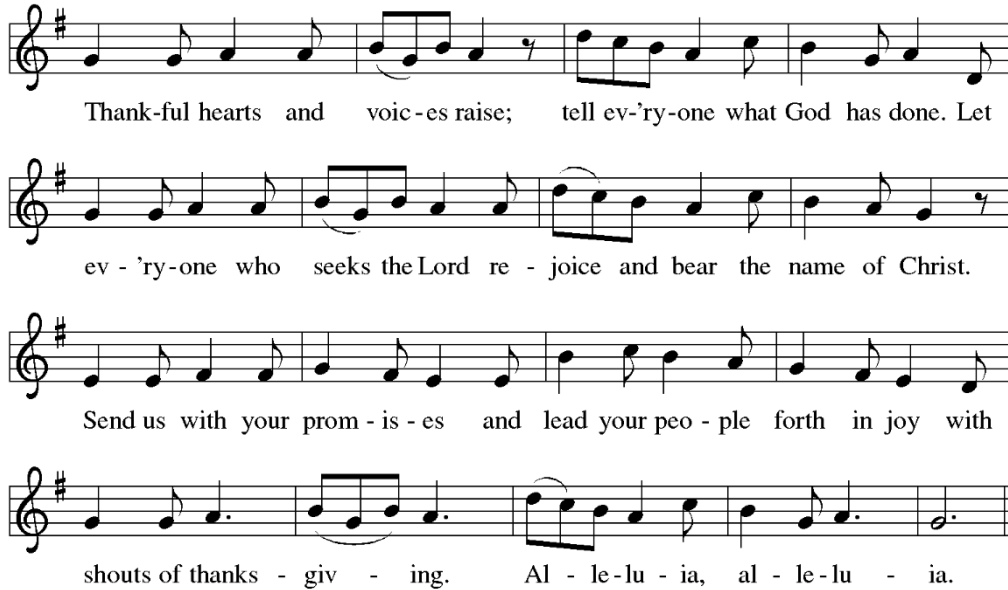
**"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"**

**Ed Lojeski**

**Offertory Hymn**

**"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"**

**ELW #207**



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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927  
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### Offertory Prayer

Merciful Father,

**We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time,  
and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who  
offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

Holy, Mighty, and Merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love for us and for all your creation, you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who took upon himself our own flesh and blood, who showed us your face, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

For on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

Send your Spirit, O God, upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they become your people the Body and Blood of Christ. Send your Spirit also into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in this holy meal.

*(Intoned)* Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

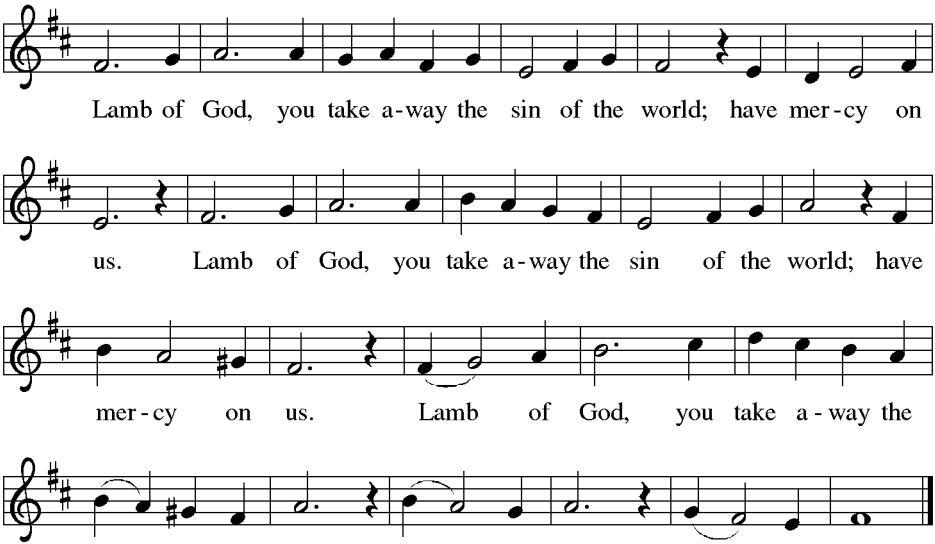
Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread,  
 and forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
 And lead us not into temptation,  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power, and the glory,  
 forever and ever. Amen.**

All are welcome to this table. Come receive the gifts of God for the people of God.



## Agnus Dei



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.

## Holy Communion

*We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament to the Lord's Table, available both at the altar railing and by intinction on the sanctuary floor. Please follow the direction of the ushers. A gluten free host is available upon request.*

## Communion Hymns

ELW # 491 *Come, Let Us Eat*  
ELW # 767 *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*  
ELW # 614 *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

## Communion Blessing

## Communion Prayer

Almighty God,  
Through this Holy Sacrament you have fed us  
with the very body and blood of Christ.  
Now send us out, to do the work you have given us to do,  
to live-out your love to a hurting world,  
and to be the hands and feet of Christ  
to all we encounter; in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

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## SENDING

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

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### Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the Name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

**"Lead Me, Guide Me"**

**ELW #768**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ goes with you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

#### Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister † Rev. Louise Shaw  
Assisting Minister † Rosemary Petry  
Lector † Bea Imken

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*Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.*

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### This week at St. John's

Tues 22 • Staff Meeting 11:00 AM  
Wed 23 • Campus Ministry Dinner 6:00 PM  
Wed 23 • Choir Practice 7:00 PM  
Thurs 24 • Pr. Jim at Synod Meeting

Thurs-Friday 24-25 • Eric out of office  
Sun 27 • Polka Worship –  
Reformation Sunday 9:30 AM  
Sun 27 • Sausage Luncheon 11:00 AM

### Congregational Meeting Announcement:

November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Budget Q&A Session, following worship in Memorial Hall

November 10<sup>th</sup> – Fall Congregational Meeting, following worship in Memorial Hall

*Please see our online calendar at [stjohnssa.org](http://stjohnssa.org) (under the Home tab)  
for weekly recurring events and the current month's Tidings.*

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## Let the Children Come

The parable of the woman persistently beseeching the unjust judge is the model Jesus offers for prayer life. It conveys a whole gamut of feelings: humor, exasperation, determination, persistence, and trust. So often we teach children prayers handed down to us from others, but how can we model for children a more conversational prayer life with God? A vibrant, relational faith can be enriched with ancient words, but it also involves lifting up real human needs. How does your community leave space for children to pray? How do adults model for children trust in God through spoken prayer?

## Theological Reflection

The persistent widow who continually returns to the judge to advocate for herself is a perfect example of embodied, incarnational prayer. Her actions and her life of incarnational prayer can serve as a model for our faith communities today. While prayer can be contemplative, it can also call for physical action. Our prayer should be that of contemplation, action, and response. The ultimate example of embodied prayer is made evident to us in the person of Jesus Christ. What does prayer look like when the words are made flesh? How can we embody our prayers to live them out into the world?

## Liturgical Calendar Commemorations

### James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

#### Wednesday, October 23, 2019

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

### Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters

#### Saturday, October 26, 2019

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

## The Artwork of the Week

Beginning at the choir loft on the right side of the sanctuary and moving toward the altar, our tour today focuses on the second window-- the Youth Window. The window depicts scenes from the life of Christ. He is seen in the temple as a young person and raising the daughter of Jarius from the dead. These images are meant as examples to our youth for daily living. The Youth Window is dedicated to Paul Jaehnig who was born in Germany. He came to the United States in 1881 and married Barbara Rilling in 1894. Jaehnig, who worked as a janitor, became ill in about 1921 and died tragically in May of 1922 several weeks after undergoing an operation. Pastor A.L. Wolff conducted his service and he is buried in New Lutheran Cemetery.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.