

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

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.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Strike Up the Music”

Tune: Pennsylvania Polka
Text: Ardene Wuthrich © 2003

REFRAIN:

Strike up the music, the band has begun,
It's time for Polka Worship!
Add in your voice, then, come join in the songs,
It's time for Polka Worship!
Lift up your heart, lift it up to the Lord.
It's time for Polka Worship!
Holy Lord, we come before You,
Receive our praises as we adore You!

1. Praise the Father for His love before the world was made.
Praise the Savior for His coming down to give us aid.
Praise the Spirit for His comfort, never does it fade.
Praise the Trinity, let us praise the One in Three,
The Father, the Son, and Spirit, One in Three. **REFRAIN**
2. Praise the Father, creator of heaven and of earth.
Praise the Savior, redeemer who gives us a new birth.
Praise the Spirit, sanctifier working through the Word.
Praise the Trinity, let us praise the One in Three.
The Father, the Son, and Spirit, One in Three. **REFRAIN**

Greeting

Tune: Ein Prosit
Text: Ardene Wuthrich © 2014

Christ is risen! Christ is risen!! Alleluia!!!
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!! Alleluia!!!
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!! Alleluia!!!
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!! Alleluia!!!

Hymn of Praise

“Praise the God of All Creation”

Tune: Praha Polka
Text: Ardene Wuthrich © 2014

1. Praise the God of all creation, giving all the breath of life.
Praise the God of all creation, separating day from night.
Sun and moon and bright stars, shining in the heavens.
Birds and fish and fruit trees, for our use and caring.
Let us sing with joy and gladness, praising what our God has done.
2. Praise the God of our salvation, changing sure death into life.
Praise the God of our salvation, Jesus entering our strife.
Jesus was a stranger, to a lowly manger.
Buried Him in sorrow, in a tomb they'd borrow.
Let us sing with joy and gladness, praising what our God has done.

3. Praise the God who preached the Gospel, bringing our world the true light
Praise the God who preached the Gospel, turning blindness into sight.
Calmed the storms by speaking, living water giving.
Dread diseases healing, hungry people feeding.
Let us sing with joy and gladness, praising what our God has done.
4. Praise the God of Resurrection, Our Redeemer lives on high.
Praise the God of Resurrection, now Christ lives no more to die.
Sin is now forgiven, our true home is heaven.
Now we wait His coming, joy and peace unending.
Let us sing with joy and gladness, praising what our God has done.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the Church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace. Through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

ELW # 504

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

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 law¹⁹Now 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Speak Through the Gospel"

Tune: Julida Polka

Text: Ardene Wuthrich © 2003

1. We come to You, O Lord, because You call us.
We come to You, O Lord, because You want us.
We come to You, O Lord, because You love us.
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Open up our ears.
2. We come to You, O Lord, because we need You.
We come to You, O Lord, help us to see You.
We come to You, O Lord, because we love You.
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Open up our eyes.
3. Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Come now and feed us.
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Come now and free us.
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Come now and lead us.
Speak through the Gospel, Lord. Open up our hearts.

The Holy Gospel: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

The good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Then Jesus 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 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

Pastor James Dew

Hymn of the Day

"In Heaven There is No Fear"

"Im Himmel" - A Bavarian Tune
Text: Ardene Wuthrich © 2009

1. In Heaven there is no fear,
No hunger, death, nor tears.
In Heaven is endless joy.
Christ is risen!!! Now nothing can
destroy.
2. In Heaven God's children see
The Lamb who set them free.
In Heaven God's children sing,
"Alleluia, my Savior and my King."
3. In Heaven where streets are gold,
No one gets sick nor old.
In Heaven the lame now walk,
Those once blind see and now the
mute can talk.
4. In Heaven a room's prepared,
Where all by faith are bound.
In Heaven each will receive
A white robe, a new ring, and a crown.
5. In Heaven there is no night,
God's glory is its light.
In Heaven, this lovely place,
Where all enter by God's amazing grace.
6. In Heaven the redeemed live
In glory evermore.
In Heaven the saved are blessed
By the Father, Son, and Spirit evermore.
7. In Heaven there is no fear,
No hunger, death, nor tears.
In Heaven is endless joy.
Christ is risen!!! He reigns now over all.

Prayers of Intercession

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

We hold in prayer: Mourette Boehme, Dwan Warner, Jane Crenwelge, 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

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.")

OFFERING

Please complete the attendance form, located in the pew racks, and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

Offering Anthem

Sanctus by Schubert



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*

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
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

Tune: Muss I Denn

Text: Ardene Wuthrich © 2004

(Sung)

May the Lord be with you.

And be al-so with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We will lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to thank and praise.

In-deed we should at all times and all pla-ces. Lord You o-ver-came death and the grave,
O-pen-ing to us e-ter-nal life.

With the Church here on earth and with all the hosts of heav'n,

We praise Your name join-ing their un-end-ing hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho-ly Lord, ho-ly God, ho-ly One of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth with Your Glory, Lord, are filled.
Ho-ly Lord, ho-ly God, ho-ly One of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth with Your glo-ry, Lord, are filled.
Sing ho-san-na to the One who comes.
Sing ho-san-na to King Da-vid's Son.
Ho-ly Lord, ho-ly God, ho-ly One of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth with Your glo-ry, Lord, are filled.

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, Jesus Christ sent to earth from heaven above,
Have mercy on us and take away our sin.
Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, sent to Earth from heaven above,
Have mercy on us and take away our sin.
You so willingly came down to save even dying on the cruel cross.
Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, present in the bread and wine,
Grant us Your peace, Lord grant everlasting 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 Hymn

"Praise Melody"

Tune: The Happy Wanderer

REFRAIN after each verse of hymn. (*Each verse will be sung twice before the refrain.*)

He lives, He lives, He lives,
He lives, Christ Jesus lives today
He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today.

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see. **REFRAIN**
2. Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise. The glories of my God and King, The triumph of His grace. **REFRAIN**
3. All hail the power of Jesus name, Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown him Lord of all. **REFRAIN**
4. In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no north or south, Just one great fellowship of love, Throughout the whole wide world. **REFRAIN**

Communion Blessing

Communion Prayer

God of blessing,
at this table we have seen you face to face,
and in the gift of Christ's body and blood,
our hearts have been refreshed.
Send us now to shine with your goodness
and bear witness to the one we have received:
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

/

SENDING

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

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

"Go Now and Serve Him"

Tune: Beer Barrel Polka
Text: Ardene Wuthrich © 2003

1. Go now and serve Him, Serve Jesus, Savior and King.
Go tell the story, Of the salvation He brings.
Let us be faithful, Let us go forth with God's Word,
For no one should be forgotten, Let God's message be heard.
2. With varied talents, All useful to our great Lord,
Go now and serve Him, Let every gift be employed.
We have one purpose, Touch every life that we can,
Let us plan and work together, So God's love fills the land.
3. Go tell the story, Of Jesus, Savior and King.
Go with the Good News, Tell how forgiveness He brings.
Tell how He loves us, Suffered and died in our place.
Go and tell the joyful story, Of His kindness and grace.

Table Grace

Tune: Edelweiss

Bless our friends, bless our food, Come, O Lord, and sit with us.
May our talk glow with peace, May your love surround us.
Friendship and love, may it bloom and grow, Bloom and grow forever.
Bless our friends, bless our food, Bless our dear land forever.

Dismissal

Tune: Ein Prosit
Text: Ardene Wuthrich © 2014

Cantor: Christ is risen! Christ is risen!! Alleluia!!!
ALL: Christ is risen! Christ is risen!! Alleluia!!!
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!! Alleluia!!!
Christ is risen! Christ is risen!! Alleluia!!!

Polka Postlude

Thank you to those who provided the music this morning:

James Stephenson Anthony Alfred Ron Schmidt

Wesley Arnold Sharon Setera Rob Jenkins

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister + Pastor James Dew

Assisting Minister + Julie Shadrock

Lector + Kyle Dorsey

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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.

This week at St. John's

Sun 27 • Sausage Luncheon 11:00 AM

Mon 28 • Property Team Meets 6:00 PM

Wed 30 • Campus Ministry Dinner 6:00 PM

Wed 30 • Choir Practice 7:00 PM

Fri 1 • First Friday Concert 12:05 PM

Robert Jenkins, Organist

Sun 3 • Daylight Saving Time ends

Sun 3 • All Saints Sunday

Sun 3 • Confirmation Class 11:00 AM

Congregational Meeting Announcement:

November 3rd – Budget Q&A Session, following worship in Memorial Hall

Copies of the budget are available in the Church Office

November 10th – Fall Congregational Meeting, following worship in Memorial Hall

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

Let the Children Come

If you've ever tried to convince a child not to be afraid of the monster under the bed or the noise in the closet, you know how difficult it can be. How we long to liberate them from their fears. "There is nothing under the bed. See?" "Nothing in the closet. See?" In today's gospel, Jesus proclaims to his disciples, "The truth will make you free." When the nations are in an uproar and kingdoms totter, we can be still and know that God is God.

Theological Reflection

While it's tempting to focus on Luther's theology, Luther was primarily concerned with faith. Theologian and author Frederick Buechner talks about the distinction in his essay "Faith and Fiction": "Theology is reasoned, systematic, orderly whereas faith is disorderly, intermittent, and full of surprises. . . . Faith is less a position on than a movement *toward*" (*The Clown in the Belfry* [San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1992], 12). Buechner's description is an apt one and perhaps particularly encouraging for those who embrace the challenge of being a continually reforming tradition.

Liturgical Calendar Commemorations

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Monday, October 28, 2019

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day

Thursday, October 31, 2019

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

All Saints Day

Friday, November 1, 2019

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year.

The Artwork of the Week

The third window moving forward from the choir loft on the right side of the church is the Benevolence Window. Here we see the Good Samaritan and the beggar at the temple gate. The burning heart depicts the desire we should place on helping others. This window is dedicated to Elise Legler, a native of Switzerland, who was a longtime member of the church. She was married to John Legler who was a brewery manager before his retirement. The couple lived on Durango Street west of downtown. John died in 1913 and Elise lived until 1924 when she died at the age of 82. Pastor A.L. Wolff conducted her funeral at the family's home. Both Elise and John Legler are buried in New Lutheran Cemetery.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.