



## St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

September 6, 2020

*Welcome! Conflict is an inevitable reality of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in this week's Gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. In the Romans passage, Saint Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

### **Prelude and Bells**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

*(Silence for personal reflection)*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

### **Choir**

***Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven***

### **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.**

## Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord God,  
enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.  
Without your help, we mortals will fail;  
remove far from us everything that is harmful,  
and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

## Romans 13:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody

## Psalm 119:33-40

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

*(continued)*

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.**

## **The Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 18:15-20**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

## **Sermon**

**Pastor James Dew**

## **Anthem**

***The Gift of Love* by Hopson  
Michael and Alisha Bade**

## **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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the Church, the world, and all in need:

*(A brief silence)*

Unite your Church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen our ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide our elected officials toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. Provide strength and peace for *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny and Cherie Knippa, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Albert and Deleyce Tietze, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Nat Castillo, Bill Witte, Beth Knox, Tom Bartholomew, Lauren Ottmers, Don Vogt, Lee and Karen Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Dean Olson, Steve Wendel, Joe Reiner, Jonathan Sulaica, Henry Gemblar,* and all whom we also name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

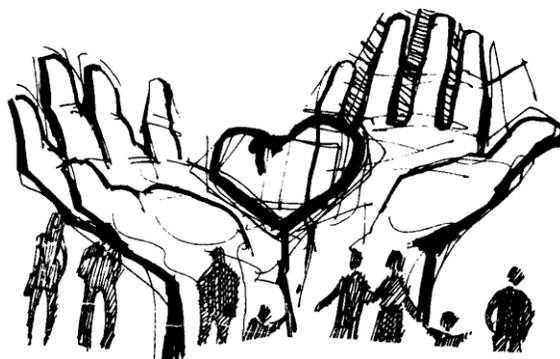
We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

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



## 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.**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
In great love for us and for all your creation, you took upon yourself our own likeness,  
our own living and dying, and, upon the cross, you opened your 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.**

Move over these gifts of the Table, O Breath of God, and on those gathered around this meal.  
As the Bread of Hope heals our brokenness, may we be reconciled to those we have harmed.  
As the Cup of Grace quenches our thirst for hope, may we reach out to those who are often forgotten.  
As your peace fills our empty souls, may we bring that peace to our world.

And when that new day comes when all brokenness is made whole,  
when all barriers are torn down and all people live at peace with one another,  
gather us at your holy feast, singing your praises forever and ever. **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.**

## 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. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist are being offered in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.*

## Communion Prayer

O God, our provider,  
You nourish us with holy bread and wine  
and you open our hearts to the needs of others.  
Send us now, with your Spirit,  
that our lives may proclaim  
your creative and life-giving Word,  
Jesus Christ as Lord. **Amen.**

## Farewell and Godspeed for Michael and Alisha Bade and Rob Jenkins

Friends, as you leave our community of faith here at St. John's, and we bid you farewell, we send you with these words:

*The Lord said, "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way, and to bring you to the place that I have prepared." (Exodus 23:20).*

When each of you came to this congregation, we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share together as the people of God. Here, you have helped to carry, model, and live-out God's loving purpose for us and for all creation. God has blessed you among us, and has blessed us through both of you. We give thanks for the good work which you each have graciously offered here at St. John's.

Let us pray: Eternal God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servants Rob, Michael, and Alisha, who have enriched this community of faith and has shared their gifts in abundance among us. Now bless and preserve them in this time of transition and new beginnings. Day by day, guide them and give them what is needed, friends to cheer their way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling them. By your Holy Spirit be present in their journeying, that they may travel with the knowledge and assurance that they are accompanied not only by the prayers of this gathered people, but also with the One who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace. **Amen.**

## Benediction

Go now to the people who are overwhelmed by despair.

**We will take the hope which has been given to us and share it with all.**

Go now to those who are at odds with their neighbors.

**We will offer the peace and reconciliation which God has poured into our lives.**

Go now to the ones who are the most vulnerable in our world.

**We will bring the healing, the grace, the love of God.**

Go now with the Name of God upon you: the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Choir

***We Are Called***

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve both God and neighbor,  
**In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

## Postlude

*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**

Today, September 6 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, September 6 @ 10:00am	Worship
Wednesday, Sept 9 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online (Zoom link <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83011291365">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83011291365</a> )

*Please see our online calendar at [www.stjohnssa.org](http://www.stjohnssa.org) for other events.  
For prayer requests, please contact the church office  
(210) 223-2611 or [info@StJohnsSA.org](mailto:info@StJohnsSA.org)*

## **Ministry Opportunities at Christian Assistance Ministry**

### Clothing Needs

Accepting: gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women; casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes.

Not accepting at this time: any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear.

Contact Sarah Kory at [skory@cam-sa.org](mailto:skory@cam-sa.org) or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

### Help Feed the Hungry

Every other Tuesday, some members of St. John's deliver sandwiches to CAM around 11:00am.

If you would like more information about this ministry and how you can lend support, please contact Bea Imken at 210-887-2217.

## **Generosity in All Seasons**

Everything that we have is a gift that God places in our care during our lifetimes. How to plan a legacy that will reflect your faith and values will be discussed during "Growing in Generosity—Legacies That Last," a webinar on planning legacy gifts for family and ministry. This webinar, presented by Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, will be offered at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on two Wednesdays -- Sept. 9 and Sept 23 -- and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13. For registration, see:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_FAnTBa1rRyaP-E6ZSGT4Cw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FAnTBa1rRyaP-E6ZSGT4Cw).

For more information, contact Deacon John Dellis, (830) 305-2758, [jdellis@lfs.org](mailto:jdellis@lfs.org).



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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