



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 12, 2021 | 10:30am

Welcome to St. John's. We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Nimrod
Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether

ELGAR
FRIEDEL

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

*September 11 Liturgy of Remembrance

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

Yesterday was the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. On that day, hatred, fear, and death shook not only America, but the world. We remember the 3,000 innocent victims of September 11 from the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center – the civilians and rescuers – and the passengers of four flights which crashed into the Towers, the Pentagon, and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. We remember the thousands who were injured. We remember the scores of persons who faced illness and death in subsequent years from the inhalation of smoke and dust. We remember those who lost their lives, both military and civilian, in the wars that were spawned in the aftermath of September 11th.

The attacks of 9/11 remain the deadliest terrorist act in world history.

Even though our children and teens have no memory of the tragedy, many of us still have vivid remembrances, grieve the loss of friends and loved ones, and lament the ways our lives have been changed forever. Therefore, we pray with the remembrance of the tragedy in our minds, with sorrow in our hearts, and with longing in our souls.

Together, let us pray for the victims of terrorism, war, and violence everywhere.

In your great mercy, grant them the peace that the world has denied them.

For the men and women who answered their nations' call to serve.

For soldiers, firefighters, police officers, and all public servants: protect them by your grace and bring them out of harm's way into the safety of home and family.

For the innocent lives caught in the crossfire, who have died, been maimed, and lost both home and homeland.

For those who mourn, weep, and live in fear amid wars they cannot flee: grant them comfort from sadness, protection in danger, and the relief of daily bread and basic necessities of human life as they rebuild their lives.

For the families and individuals broken by the physical and psychological effects of war, violence, and terrorism.

For those suffering from long separation, fragmented relationships, missing limbs and mental illness: grant them the strength and aid they need to be complete, at peace, and restored to life.

For the children who have been made orphans, the women who have been made widows, the men who have been made widowers, and the parents who have buried children.

For those that weep this day and forever for their departed loved ones: transform mourning into dancing and surround them with a great cloud of witnesses for comfort and support.

For the young who have never known a time when America was not at war.

For those taught to fragment the human family into “us” and “them,” for those raised to justify animosity towards others by believing that God hates those who would harm them or disagree with them: have mercy on them through your divine, all-encompassing love.

For all the hard-hearted who have lost the ability to forgive.

For “us” and “them” in every conflict: teach peoples to forgive seventy times seven, as you have commanded, and move us to love friend and enemy alike.

O God, who made us in your image, who comforts and weeps with us, create in us spirits that respond to pain with compassion, enlarge our hearts so that we may weave hope from the torn fabric of tragedies, and grant us strength and courage to offer forgiveness to all as you have so graciously forgiven us. In our pain, may we not forge swords, but ploughshares. In tragedy, may we not despair, but through your Spirit, create good news, hope, and peace for a broken world. In the name of your Son, our Savior, who has revealed his limitless love for all.

Amen.

Adapted from liturgy by David Roberts, *Patbos* blog

***HYMN AT THE PROCESSION**

Immortal, Invisible



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vi - si - ble, God on - ly wise, in
2 Un - res - ting, un - has - ting, and si - lent as light, nor
3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small; in
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light, thine



light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, most
wan - ting nor was - ting, thou ru - lest in might; thy
all life thou liv - est, the true life of all; we
an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight; all



bles - sed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, al -
jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove, thy
blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree, and
praise we would re - nder, O help us to see 'tis



migh - ty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
wi - ther and pe - rish—but nought chang - est thee.
on - ly the splen - dor of light hi - deth thee.

***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.

***GLORIA**



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 break 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.
 receive our prayer; have mer - cy.
 God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 50:4-9

A reading from Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to
sustain the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he
wakens— wakens my ear to listen
as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord God has opened my
ear, and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who
struck me, and my cheeks to
those who pulled out the beard;

I did not hide my face from insult
and spitting.

⁷The Lord God helps me;

therefore I have not been
disgraced; therefore I have set my
face like flint, and I know that I
shall not be put to shame;

⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps
me; who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sung by the choir.

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him. ²The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; I came to grief and sorrow. ³Then I called upon the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray you, saved my life.” ⁴Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion. ⁵The Lord watches over the innocent: I was brought very low, and he helped me. ⁶Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has treated you well. ⁷For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling. ⁸I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING

JAMES 3:1-12

A reading from James.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can saltwater yield fresh.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly faces the center aisle to welcome Christ in the Gospel.



*GOSPEL

MARK 8:27-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

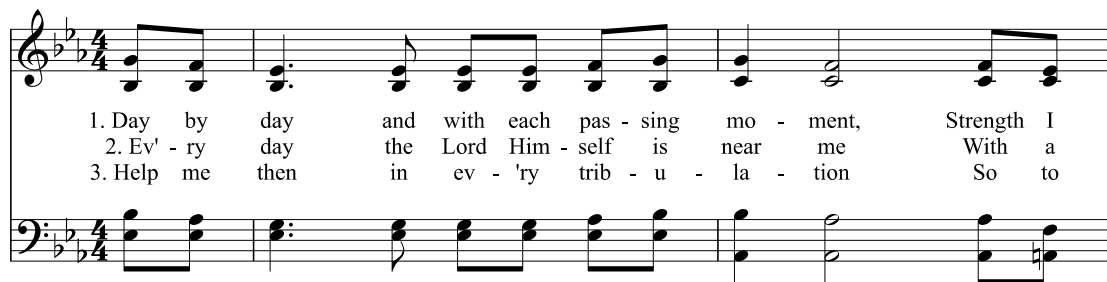
PASTOR PEDERSON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

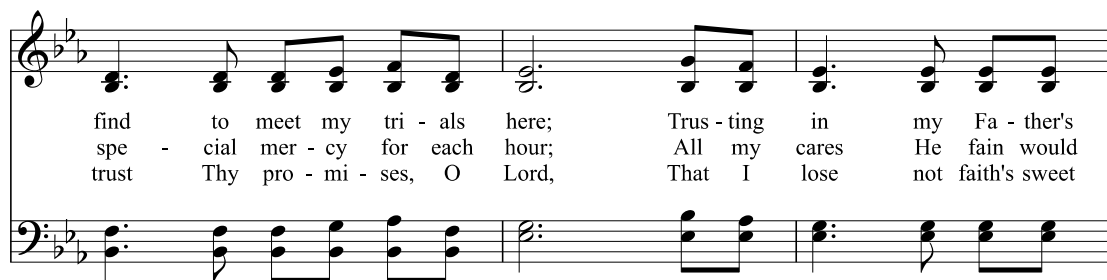
***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Day by Day

trad. Swedish



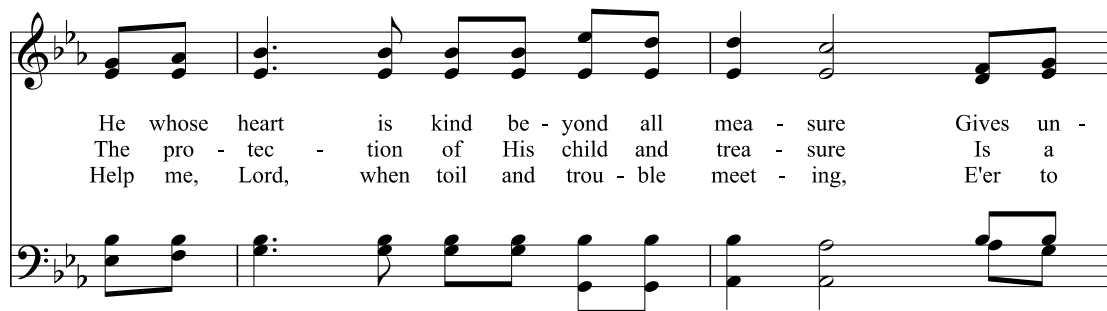
1. Day by day and with each pas - sing mo - ment, Strength I
 2. Ev' - ry day the Lord Him - self is near me With a
 3. Help me then in ev - 'ry trib - u - la - tion So to



find to meet my tri - als here; Trus - ting in my Fa - ther's
 spe - cial mer - cy for each hour; All my cares He fain would
 trust Thy pro - mi - ses, O Lord, That I lose not faith's sweet



wise bes - tow - ment, I've no cause for wor - ry or for fear.
 bear, and cheer me, He whose name is Coun - se - lor and Pow'r.
 con - so - la - tion Of - fered me with - in Thy ho - ly Word.



He whose heart is kind be - yond all mea - sure Gives un -
 The pro - tec - tion of His child and trea - sure Is a
 Help me, Lord, when toil and trou - ble meet - ing, E'er to

to each day what He deems best Lo - ving - ly, its part of
 charge that on Him - self He laid; "As thy days, thy strength shall
 take, as from a fa - ther's hand, One by one, the days, the

pain and plea - sure, Min - gling toil with peace and rest.
 be in mea - sure," This the pledge to me He made.
 mo - ments fleet - ing, Till I reach the pro - mised land.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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 intercession ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

***OFFERING**

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

SCHUMANN

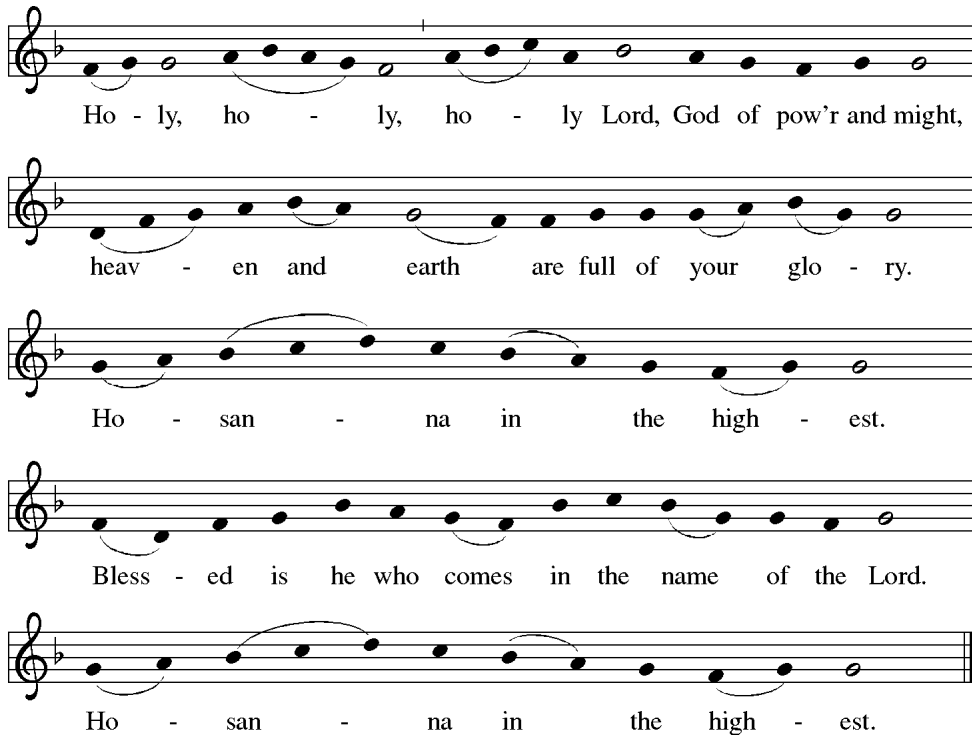
**We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee. Amen.**



***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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*



You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In 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 for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, take your place at the feast.

All who believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising eternal life, are welcome to the Table of the Lord.

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. A - men.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

The Call

STROOPE

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with power of his endless life, now and forever.

Amen.

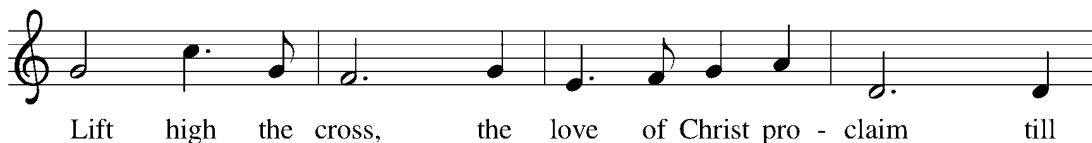
SENDING

*BLESSING

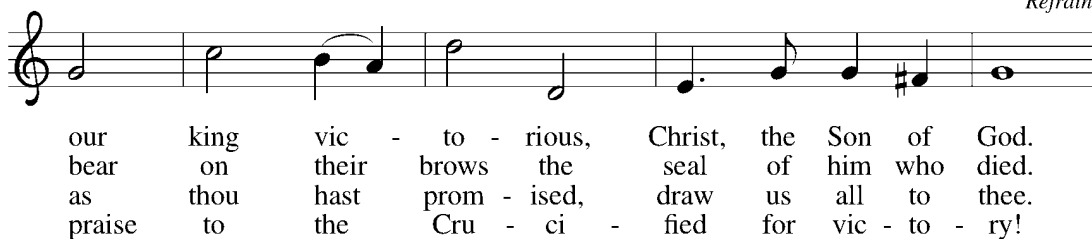
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

*HYMN AT THE PROCESSION

Lift High the Cross



Refrain



*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gospel.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in F

LUBEK

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Sunday Leaders

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Duane C. Pederson
Organist	Nathan K. Lively
Worship Assistant	Eric Lane
Reader	Lois Coffin
Communion Assistants	Vinnie Bell, Jack Chnowski
Acolytes	Andre Benalcazar, Vivian Torre
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	Tim Brumbaugh
	Lois Coffin
	Pat Fisher

Livestream Sponsors

Mark & Sarah Pollex, Tim & Trisha Racho, and Robert & Susan Sachs

Bass Choral Scholar Sponsors

Pat Fisher *in memory of* Chuck Fisher
Anonymous
Mark and Jennifer Famous
Eric Lane *in memory of* Walter and Ruth Ramshaw
Nels and Susan Ylitalo *with thanks to* Nathan Lively
Connie Feydy and Jake Elwell
Chis and Amy Beldotti
Diane Egley
Rev. Duane and Charlene Pederson
Nathan Lively *in thanks to* Marie Sweglar & Tom and Nanette Jordan



**A nod to our Swedish heritage
A concert to celebrate St. John's 130th anniversary**

Sunday, September 12, 5pm
Luther Hall
St. John's Lutheran Church, 884 Newfield Ave., Stamford, CT

Thoughts from Solitude: A Nordic Art Song Recital

"Solitude" is a state of being that many of us have become familiar with. For some, solitude is peaceful and necessary. For others, it is uncomfortable. Whatever our experience, we often find that solitude leaves room for our thoughts to bloom. Perhaps we muse about the future or pine for those we long to be close with, or maybe we revisit the past and get lost in our own stories (or the stories of others). As we re-emerge into the world, what will you carry with you? What are your thoughts from solitude?

Baritone Harrison Hintzsche and pianist Nathan K. Lively will interpret songs in Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish and feature Nordic composers such as Stenhammar, Sibelius, Grieg, among others. The program will last just under one and a half hours.

Staff of St. John's Lutheran Church

Duane Pederson, Pastor
Nathan Lively, Cantor
Nancy Rowe, Administrative Assistant
Jody Van Houten, Bookkeeper