



St. John's Lutheran Church Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023 | 10:30am



Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all.

As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. John's Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, and Wappinger peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial and wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.



It is a joy to have you worship at St. John's Lutheran! As we gather to praise God, we trust that the Spirit will make Jesus known in our midst, draw us ever closer to God's grace, and equip us for service and witness in the world.

If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register near the main entrance of the church. If you are looking for a church home, contact the pastor for information about St. John's Lutheran.

Check out the website of St. John's Lutheran Church for information about the array of ministries and mission initiatives of the congregation. **www.stjohnelca.org**

If you or someone you know is in the hospital or in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 203-322-0066.

Children

We welcome families with children to our worship.

To assist you, please know:

- † Parents, if you need to take a break with your little one, there is a nursery room in the back of the church.
- † Sundays when Sunday School is held, the worship will include a children's message at the front of the sanctuary. Accompany your child if you wish.
- † During the offering, children may bring coins to the receptacle on the chancel steps.



MISSION STATEMENT

All are welcome! We share Christ's love, grow in faith, and serve others.

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

The prelude signals a time of silent prayer and reflection.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

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

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 sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Holy Name.**

Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in
eternal life.

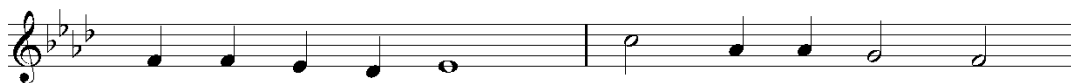
Amen.

***HYMN AT THE PROCESSION** *Come, labor on*

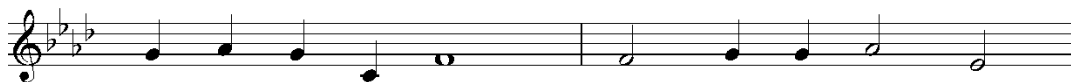
ORA LABORA



1	Come,	la - bor	on.	Who	dares	stand	i - dle
2	Come,	la - bor	on.	The	en - e - my	is	
3	Come,	la - bor	on.	A -	way	with	gloom - y
4	Come,	la - bor	on.	Claim	the	high	call - ing
5	Come,	la - bor	on.	No	time	for	rest, till



1	on	the	har - vest	plain,	while	all	a - round	us
2	watch - ing	night	and	day,	to	sow	the	tares, to
3	doubts	and	faith - less	fear!	No	arm	so	weak but
4	an - gels	can - not	share—		to	young	and	old the
5	glows	the	west - ern	sky,	till	the	long	sha - dows



1	waves	the	gold - en	grain?	And	to	each	ser - vant
2	snatch	the	seed	a - way;	while	we	in	sleep our
3	may	do	ser - vice	here:	by	feeb - lest	a -	gents
4	Gos - pel	glad - ness	bear:		re - deem	the	time;	its
5	o'er	our	path - way	lie,	and	a	glad	sound comes



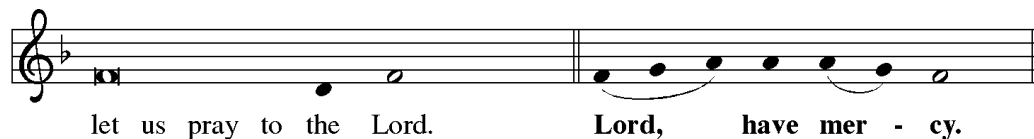
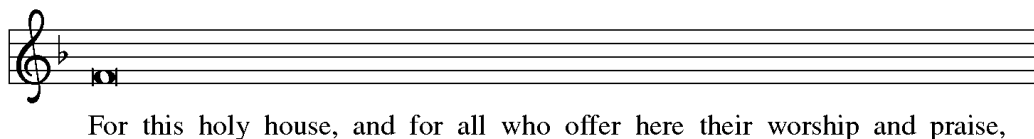
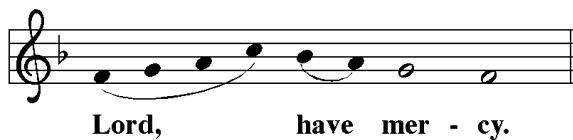
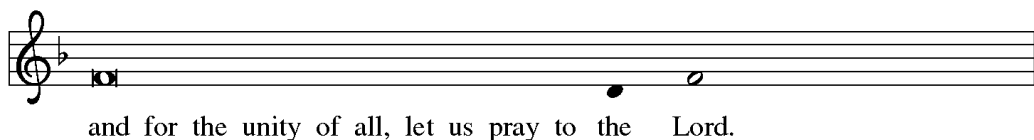
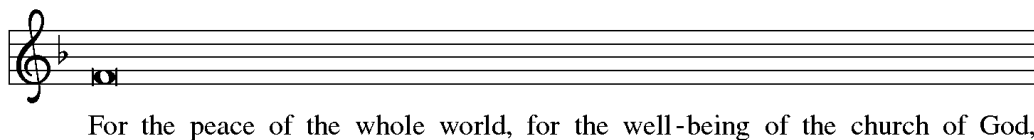
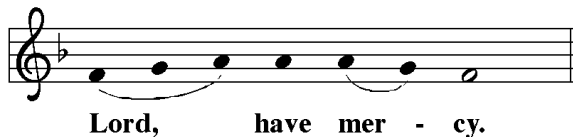
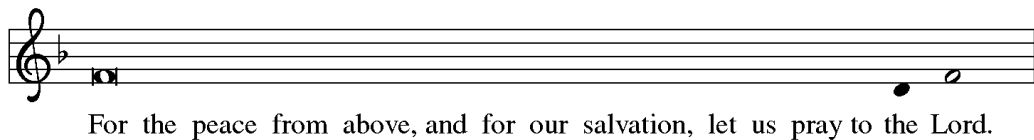
1	does	the	Mas - ter	say,	“Go	work	to -	day.”
2	du - ty	have	for - got,	he	slum - bered—	not.		
3	may	our	God - ful - fill	his	right - eous—	will.		
4	hours	too	swift - ly	fly. The	night	draws—	nigh.	
5	with	the	set - ting	sun, ———	“Ser - vants,	well	done.”	

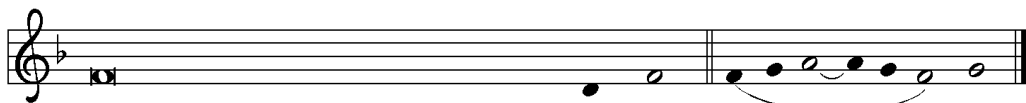
Words: Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897), alt. Music: *Ora Labora*, Thomas Tertius Noble (1867-1953).

***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 & GLORIA**





Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.



Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



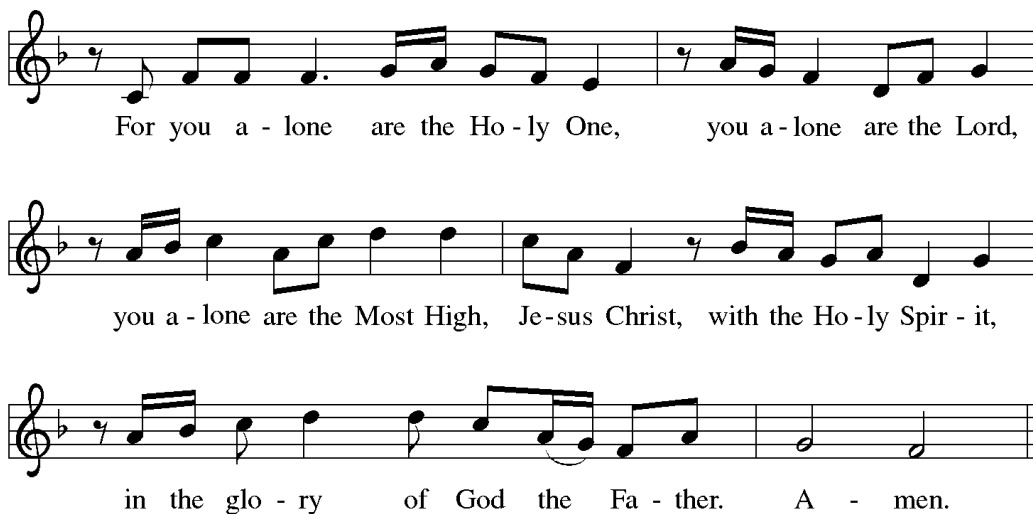
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.

Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING

JONAH 3:10--4:11

A reading from Jonah.

WHEN God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be

angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 145:1-8

Sung by the choir. Music by Margaret Burk.

- ¹ I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.
- ⁴ One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.
- ⁵ I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.
- ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

A reading from Philippians.

FOR to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***SEQUENCE**

CANONBURY

Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in living echoes of your tone;
As you have sought, so let us seek your straying children, lost and lone.

***GOSPEL**

MATTHEW 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS said to the disciples: ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the

vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

***SEQUENCE**

CANONBURY

O fill us with your fullness, Lord, until our very hearts o’er flow
 In kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

SERMON

PASTOR PEDERSON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Lord of all hopefulness

SLANE

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
 whose trust, ever child-like,
 no cares could destroy:
 be there at our waking,
 and give us, we pray,
 your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
 at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
 whose strong hands were skilled at the
 plane and the lathe:
 be there at our labors,
 and give us, we pray,
 your strength in our hearts, Lord,
 at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
 your hands swift to welcome,
 your arms to embrace:
 be there at our homing,
 and give us, we pray,
 your love in our hearts, Lord,
 at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
 whose voice is contentment,
 whose presence is balm:
 be there at our sleeping,
 and give us, we pray,
 your peace in our hearts, Lord,
 at the end of the day.

*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:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

*PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING

We offer our tithes and gifts to the Lord.

Children may bring their gifts to the receptacle on the chancel steps next to the pulpit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My eyes for beauty pine

ELIZABETH COXHEAD

*HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION

DIX

For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
For thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

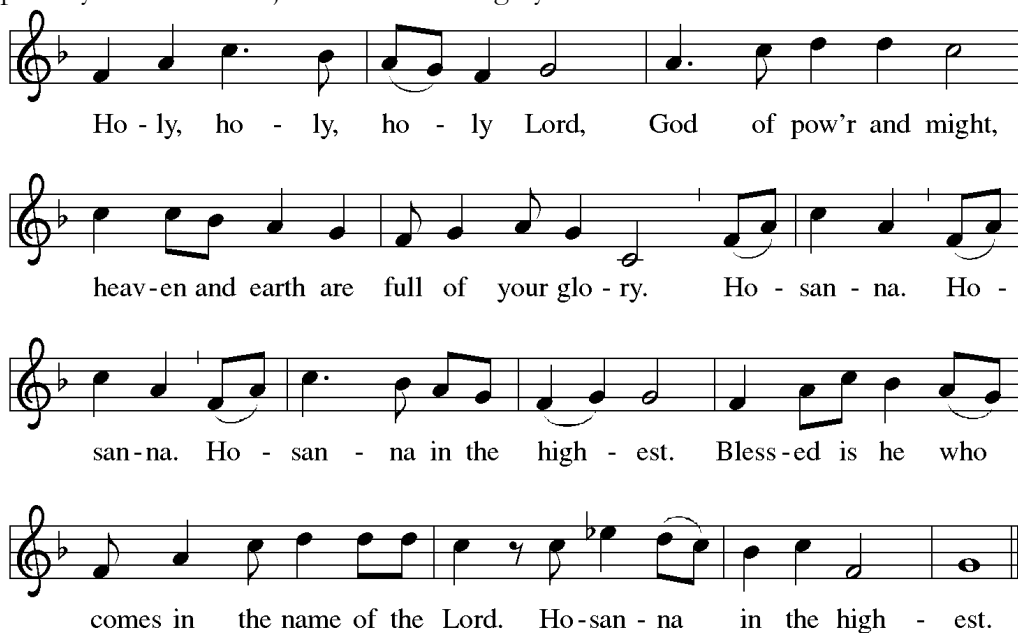
Lift up your hearts.

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:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san-na. 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.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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.

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.

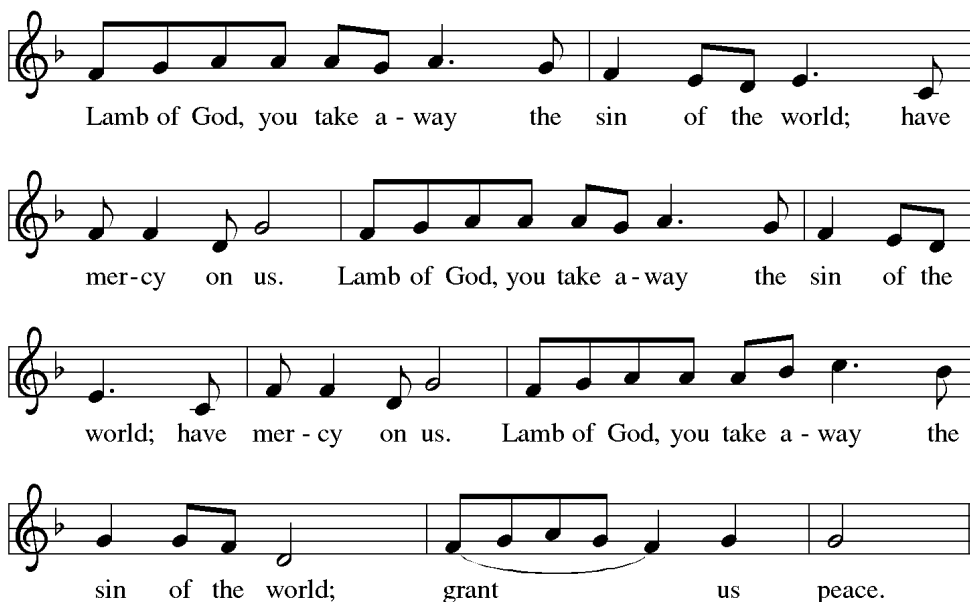
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM

Offertory

NESS-BECK

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior, Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us

strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

*BLESSING

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

Amen.

***HYMN AT THE PROCESSION** *O Zion, haste*

HYMN 668

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

Worship Leaders Today

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Duane C. Pederson
Organist	Cantor Nathan Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Charlene Pederson
Reader	Susan Ylitalo
Communion Assistants	Vincent Bell, Michele Taylor
Acolyte	Liz Ylitalo
Usher	Eric Lane
Altar Committee	Cheryl Milukas
Counters	Tim Brumbaugh, Lois Coffin, Pat Fisher, Gary Esposito

Little Free Pantry Eric Lane
Coffee Hour Greta Schneider

Adult Education

Sneak Peek Bible Study meets each Monday, 7 pm, via Zoom. Participants study the Scripture passages that will be read the following Sunday.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/556531179>

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

October

- 1 Ecumenical Blessing of the Animals, 4pm at the Patch
- 8 Single 9:30am Worship
History Event, 10:30am
Evensong for St. Francis of Assisi, 5pm
- 14 Outdoor Movie at the Pumpkin Patch, 6pm
- 19 Vocal Concert by St. John's alto, McKayla Ferguson, 5pm in Luther Hall
- 21 Oktoberfest, 5pm
- 29 Reformation Sunday – wear red!

November

- 5 All Saints' Sunday
The Loving Memory Concert, 5pm
- 12 Single 9:30am service for Stewardship Sunday
Youth Pancake Breakfast, 10:30am

December

- 3 Santa Lucia Procession, 10:30am
Decorate the Church for Christmas, 4pm
Advent Night, 5-7pm
- 10 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 5pm
- 16 Youth Outing to NYC
- 24 Advent Lessons and Carols Service, 9:30am service
- 24 Family Christmas Eve Worship, 5pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship (with choir), 8:30pm
- 31 Christmas Lessons and Carols Service, 9:30am service