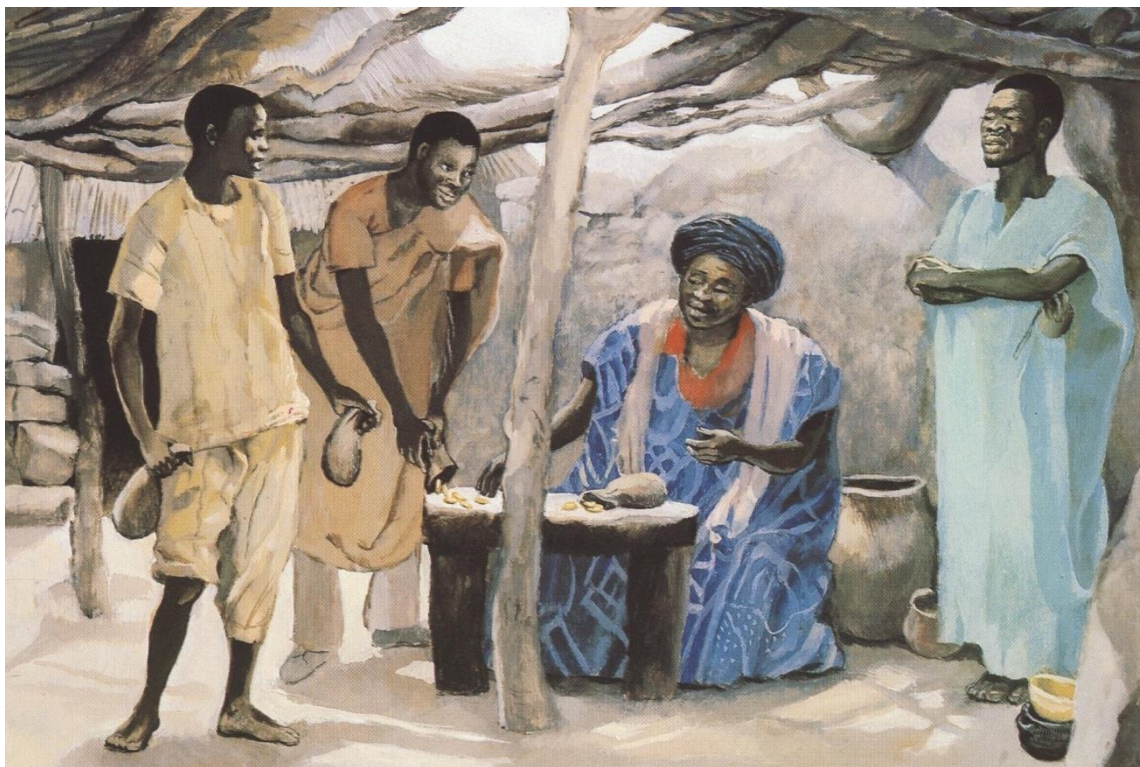




# St. John's Lutheran Church Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023 | 9:30am



*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.*

## 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](http://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.
- † 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.**

\*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

[Organ] *ff*  
Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the

*f*  
high - est. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on

earth. Lord God, Heav'n - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we

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

*[ff]*  
*f*  
Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the high - est.  
Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

*mf*  
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 sea-ted at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our

prayer. *f* Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the

high - est. *f* high - est. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the

Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,

with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.

*ff* Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the high - est.

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah.

**B**E silent before the Lord God!  
For the day of the Lord is at hand;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The Lord will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the Lord is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the Lord,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the Lord's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL PSALM

PSALM 90:1-8, 12

*Sung by the choir. Music by Sarah MacDonald (contemporary)*

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.
- <sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
from age to age you are God.
- <sup>3</sup> You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
“Go back, O child of earth.”
- <sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*  
and like a watch in the night.
- <sup>5</sup> You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- <sup>6</sup> In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- <sup>7</sup> For we consume away in your displeasure; \*  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

<sup>8</sup> Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

<sup>12</sup> So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING

I THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

A reading from First Thessalonians.

**N**OW concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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 25:14-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**ESUS said to the disciples: <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two



talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

PR. PEDERSON

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood  
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,  
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest  
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -  
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our  
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have  
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en  
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,  
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—  
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful  
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py  
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your  
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.  
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.  
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."  
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

\* 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:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

\* 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

*Lord, I trust thee*

HANDEL

\* 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:



[Organ] *mf* Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. *f* Ho - san - na,  
Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
*mf* Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. *f* Ho -  
san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est. *ff*

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.

**O**ur 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

[Organ] *mp* Lamb of God, you  
*mf* take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.  
*mf* Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.  
*mf* Lamb of God, Lamb of  
*mp* Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 God. *non rall.* *p* world, grant us peace. **2**

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

ANTHEM  
 HYMN

*O taste and see  
 Light dawns on a weary world*

R. V. WILLIAMS  
 HYMN 726

## \* 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      *I want to walk as a child of the light*      **HYMN 815**

### \* DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003253. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

*OneLicense w/Podcasting #A-735794*

*Service music: Extracts of the Mass of St Thomas by David Thorne are reproduced by permission of the composer.*

*Cover art: JESUS MAFA. Parable of the Three Servants, or, The Talents, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/ink.pl?RC=48297> [retrieved November 13, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).*

## COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP TIME

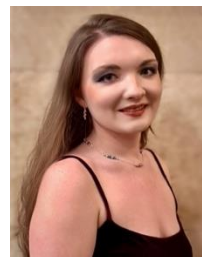
Thank you, *Milukas Family*, for providing coffee hour this week!

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Dr. Duane C. Pederson
Organist	Cantor Nathan K. Lively-Greyling
Worship Assistant	Michele Effren
Reader	Michele Effren

Acolytes	Charlotte Dianis, Leo McCullough
Communion Assistants	Kath Caraballo, Shirley Schulz
Usher	Eric Lane
Counters	Diane Egley, Cheryl & Joe Milukas, and Michele Taylor
Altar Committee	Pam Bartlett, Cathy Mahler

Don't miss an exciting recital **today**, Sunday, November 19, at **5pm** in **Luther Hall**. Alto staff singer, McKayla Ferguson, will give a concert to benefit her trip to Ireland with the St John's choir in August 2024. McKayla will be accompanied by Marnus Lively-Greyling. Come join us and enjoy a reception afterwards.



### New worship assistant and acolyte robes

The Worship and Music Committee has chosen new robes for our acolytes and worship assistants to replace the current white robes, which are twenty years old. The new robes will match the same color as the current choir robes, making them interchangeable for different sizes and will also be fitted with a white scapular that is worn over the robe.

If you would like to help, each robe is \$235, and we need to order 12. Gifts of any size can be made to the church, marked "robes" in the memo.

## St. John's Christmas Mission Project

St. John's is partnering with Person to Person in their **Holiday Gifts** toy store event. P2P literally sets up a shopping area from gifts that are donated. Families in need then "shop" for free, accompanied by a volunteer, and select gifts for their family. The opportunity for parents to choose from donated toys is a significant plus for families.

**To order gifts** go to:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2X73PWSOALN6V/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2X73PWSOALN6V/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex) and click on "Juri Garone Toy Store's Gift Registry Address" in the shipping section, and the gifts will be sent directly to the P2P warehouse. **Order any time before November 28.** Earlier orders will have a better selection from which to choose.