



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

*August 20, 2023*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

What is seeing? What is blindness? In today's gospel reading from John 9 we'll meet a blind man who is healed. We'll also meet some religious leaders who have perfect eyesight, but seem to be spiritually blind. Jesus is at the center of it all. He seeks to have everyone's eyes be opened to who he is and to what God is up to.

*Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn God, Whose Almighty Word  
(For music see Hymn 673 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **God, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard  
and took their flight:  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.**
2. **Christ, who once came to bring,  
on your redeeming wing,  
healing and sight;  
health to the troubled mind,  
sight where illusions blind;  
oh, now to humankind  
let there be light.**
3. **Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth your flight;  
move on the water's face  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light.**
4. **Holy and blessed three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might:  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth, far and wide,  
let there be light.**

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825 alt. Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

## Apostles' Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.  
Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.  
We have hurt our community.  
We have squandered your blessings.  
We have hoarded your bounty.  
In the name of Jesus,  
forgive us and grant us mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Righteous God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.  
We have failed to be honest.  
We have lacked the courage to speak.  
We have spoken falsely.  
In the name of Jesus,  
forgive us and grant us mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus the Christ.

**C: Amen**

Hymn of Praise Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*(For music, turn to Hymn 836 in the Red Hymnal)*

- 1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.**
- 2. All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,**

center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

©Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933; Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light in the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

A: <sup>8</sup>For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

*After the reading the reader may say:* The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Introduction to the Gospel Reading

*Gospel Reading John 9*

B: As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him,

D: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

B: <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered,

E: “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

B: <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him,

E: “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”

B: (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

**C: “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?”**

B: <sup>9</sup>Some were saying,

**C: “It is he.”**

B: Others were saying,

**C: “No, but it is someone like him.”**

B: He kept saying,

F: “I am the man.”

B: <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him,

**C: “Then how were your eyes opened?”**

B: <sup>11</sup>He answered,

F: “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.”

B: <sup>12</sup>They said to him,

**C: “Where is he?”**

B: He said,

F: “I do not know.”

B: <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them,

F: “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

B: <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said,

**C: “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.”**

B: But others said,

**C: “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?”**

B: And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man,

**C: “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”**

B: He said,

F: “He is a prophet.”

B: <sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them,

**C: “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”**

B: <sup>20</sup>His parents answered,

G: “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”

B: <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,

**C: “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”**

B: <sup>25</sup>He answered,

F: “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

B: <sup>26</sup>They said to him,

**C: “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”**

B: <sup>27</sup>He answered them,

F: “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

B: <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying,

**C: “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”**

B: <sup>30</sup>The man answered,

F: “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

B: <sup>34</sup>They answered him,

**C: “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?”**

B: And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

E: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

B: <sup>36</sup>He answered,

F: "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

B: <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him,

E: "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

B: <sup>38</sup>He said,

F: "Lord, I believe."

B: And he worshiped him.

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said,

E: "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

B: <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him,

**C: "Surely we are not blind, are we?"**

B: <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them,

E: "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

B: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day      I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
*For music turn to Hymn 815 in the Red Hymnal*

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light.**

**I want to follow Jesus.**

**God set the stars to give light to the world.**

**The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Refrain* **In him there is no darkness at all.**

**The night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God.**

**Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2. I want to see... the brightness of God.**

**I want to look at Jesus.**

**Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain***

### 3. I'm looking for... the coming of Christ.

**I want to be with Jesus.**

**When we have run... with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain**

Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934, copyright 1970,1975 Celebration

#### Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**C: 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 the Church

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,*

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

#### Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: We share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*



† MEAL †

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*Special Music*

*Hymn of Thanksgiving* Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord  
*For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

*Offering Prayer*

P: Let us pray: God of field, forest, sea, and sky,  
**C: you are the giver of all good things.**  
**Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,  
and multiply your graciousness in us,  
that the world may be fed with your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)*

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: All people are called to Christ's table.  
Come, eat what is good.

Communion Distribution

*Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:*

*Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)*

**314 Arise, Your Light Has Come! (Red Hymnal)**

**793 Be Thou My Vision (Red Hymnal)**

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray:

We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.  
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

‡ SENDING ‡

Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed  
bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn    Amazing Grace  
(For music turn to Hymn 779 in the Red Hymnal)

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.**
2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!**
3. **Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

4. **The Lord has promised good to me;  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**

5. **When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807; music W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O Excell.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Gary Wood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Gary Boisseau
Counters	Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour	Watermelon

Worship assistants for next Sunday, August 27

Greeters and Ushers	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Acolyte	
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	

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