



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*August 3, 2025*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

For the last several weeks we've been reading Jesus' teaching to various groups in society. He seems to have a challenging word to everyone. All this criticism can seem overwhelming, but Jesus is just telling the truth. In so doing he is driving everyone to have commitment to God and to realize they rely on God's grace.

### *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.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn We Are Marching in the Light  
(For music turn to 866 in the Red Hymnal)

**We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of, the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,  
we are marching, marching  
we are marching in the light of,  
the light of God.**

**We are marching, marching,  
we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.**

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

**We are dancing...  
We are praying...  
We are singing...**

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984. Music: South African traditional; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*. Tr. and arr. ©1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen**

*Hymn of Praise* O God Beyond All Praising  
(For music see Hymn 880 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,  
as blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.**
- 2. The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,  
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;  
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown-  
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:  
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,  
and we through him are given the final victory.**
- 3. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Piano Music

*Suite Bergamasque - III. Clair de Lune*

Debussy

† WORD †

First Reading Jeremiah 23:23-29

B: <sup>23</sup>Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup>Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup>How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup>They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 82 (*read together*)

**C: God stands in heaven's court**

**to judge all other gods:**

**"How long will you gods**

**pervert the truth**

**and side with the wicked?**

**Hand down justice**

**to orphans and the weak,**

**uphold the rights**

**of the poor and oppressed.**

**Free the weak and needy  
from the grip of the wicked.”**

**These gods know nothing,  
they wander in the dark  
while the world falls to pieces.  
“I had thought of you as gods,  
born of the highest heaven,  
but you will die like any creature  
and fall like any prince.”**

**Rise, God, judge the world.  
All nations are yours.**

*Second Reading* 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

D: [Paul writes] Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation (John 10:27)*

**C: Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading Luke 12:35-59

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus continued speaking to the crowds] : <sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. <sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

<sup>41</sup>Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?” <sup>42</sup>And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? <sup>43</sup>Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. <sup>44</sup>Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. <sup>45</sup>But if that slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, <sup>46</sup>the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. <sup>47</sup>That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. <sup>48</sup>But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. <sup>49</sup>“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when

you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? <sup>57</sup>“And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? <sup>58</sup>Thus, when you go with your accuser before a magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the case, or you may be dragged before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you in prison. <sup>59</sup>I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day      My Life Flows On in Endless Song  
(for music please turn to Hymn 763 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation.**

#### *Refrain*

**No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?**

2. **Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?      *Refrain***
3. **What though my joys and comforts die?  
The Lord my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth.      *Refrain***
4. **The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!**

**All things are mine since I am his!**  
**How can I keep from singing?**      *Refrain*

Text and Music: Robert Lowry

*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.**

*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.*

*Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings*

*The Lark*

Glinka arr. Balakirev

*During the offertory you are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.*

† MEAL †

*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.**

*Prayers of Intercession*

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.

*Issues raised by the congregation are prayed for.*

*The prayer concludes:*

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

**C: 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: Come, the Lord invites all people to the table.

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)*

*742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus (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 give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Farewell and Godspeed

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

(For music see Hymn 890 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are  
stored;  
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;  
his truth is marching on.**

*Refrain* **Glory, glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.**

**2. He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;  
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgement seat.  
Oh be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!**

**Our God is marching on. *Refrain***

**3. In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.  
As he died to make men holy, let us die\* to make men free,  
while God is marching on. *Refrain***

\* As originally written. Many modern hymnals substitute "live."  
Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910. Music: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> century

*Dismissal*

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

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

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Linn Griffio and Morgan Sackett
Acolyte	Elijah Young
Altar Care	Linda Thompson
Communion Assistants	Sally Mansfield
Counters	Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour	Farewell Lunch

Worship assistants for next Sunday, August 10

Greeters and Ushers	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	

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