



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

*July 16, 2023*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

In today's gospel Jesus heals a man on a sabbath. The religious leaders are not pleased. We are now five chapters into John's gospel in this summer worship series. The conflicts are getting deeper. The religious leaders seem completely unable to understand what Jesus is revealing about God. Wonderful as Jesus is revealing God to be, many people will not accept it.

*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 Earth and All Stars  
(For music see Hymn 731 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Earth and all stars!**  
**Loud rushing planets!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song!**  
**Hail, wind, and rain!**  
**Loud blowing snow storm!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song!**

### *Refrain*

**God has done marvelous things.**  
**I too sing praises with a new song!**

2. **Trumpet and pipes!**  
**Loud clashing cymbals!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song!**  
**Harp, lute, and lyre!**  
**Loud humming cellos!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song!** *Refrain*

3. **Engines and steel!**  
**Loud pounding hammers!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song!**  
**Limestone and beams!**  
**Loud building workers!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song!** *Refrain*

4. **Classrooms and labs!**  
**Loud boiling test tubes!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song!**  
**Athlete and band!**  
**Loud cheering people!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song!** *Refrain*

5. **Knowledge and truth!**  
**Loud sounding wisdom!**  
**Sing to the Lord a new song!**  
**Daughter and son!**  
**Loud praying members!**

## Sing to the Lord a new song!

## Refrain

Text: Herbert Brokering, b. 1926. Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987. Text and music copyright 1968 Augsburg Publishing House

### 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...

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading 1 John 3:18-24

B: Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

<sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Scripture Poetry* Psalm 67 (*read together*)

D: Favor and bless us, Lord.

Let your face shine upon us,  
Revealing your way to all peoples,  
salvation the world over.

**C: Let nations sing your praise,  
every nation on earth.**

D: The world will shout for joy,  
for you rule the planet with justice.

**C: In fairness you govern the nations  
and guide the peoples of the earth.**

D: Let the nations sing your praise,  
every nation on earth.

**C: The land delivers its harvest,  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
O God, continue your blessing,  
may the whole world worship you.**

*Gospel Acclamation* (*John 14:23*)

**C: Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* John 5

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

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

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. <sup>3</sup>In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and

paralyzed. <sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” <sup>9</sup>At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath. <sup>10</sup>So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” <sup>11</sup>But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” <sup>12</sup>They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk’?” <sup>13</sup>Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. <sup>14</sup>Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.” <sup>15</sup>The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. <sup>16</sup>Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath.

<sup>17</sup>But Jesus answered them, “My Father is still working, and I also am working.” <sup>18</sup>For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God. <sup>19</sup>Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. <sup>20</sup>The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. <sup>21</sup>Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. <sup>22</sup>The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup>so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. <sup>25</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup>For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; <sup>27</sup>and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup>Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup>and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. <sup>30</sup>“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

<sup>31</sup>“If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. <sup>32</sup>There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. <sup>33</sup>You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. <sup>34</sup>Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup>He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. <sup>36</sup>But I

have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, <sup>38</sup>and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent. <sup>39</sup>“You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. <sup>40</sup>Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. <sup>41</sup>I do not accept glory from human beings. <sup>42</sup>But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. <sup>43</sup>I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. <sup>44</sup>How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? <sup>45</sup>Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. <sup>46</sup>If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup>But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

### Children's Sermon

#### Sermon

Hymn of the Day      Jesus Loves Me!

*(For music turn to Hymn 595 in the Red Hymnal)*

**1. Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.**

*Refrain*

**Yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.**

**2. Jesus loves me! he who died  
heaven's gates to open wide;  
he will wash away my sin,  
let his little child come in. *Refrain***

**3. Jesus loves me! he will stay  
close beside me all the way;  
when at last I come to die,**

**he will take me home on high. Refrain**

Text: Anna B. Warner, Music: William Bradbury

*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 †

*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)*

**614** *There Is a Balm in Gilead (Red Hymnal)*

**471** *Let Us Break Bread Together (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*    O Jesus, I Have Promised  
(For music see Hymn 810 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me,  
my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle  
if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if you will be my guide.**
  
2. **Oh, let me feel you near me;  
the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer  
to shield my soul from sin.**
  
3. **Oh, let me hear you speaking  
in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control  
now speak and make me listen,  
O Guardian of my soul.**

**4. O Jesus, you have promised  
to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory  
your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised  
to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow,  
my master and my friend.**

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1974, alt. Music: *Neuvermehrtes*, Meiningen, 1693

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers      Mary and Greg Zuege  
Acolyte                      Thomas Bullwinkle  
Altar Care                    Mary Zuege  
Communion Assistants      Mary Zuege  
Counters                      Mary and Greg Zuege  
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, July 23

Greeters and Ushers      John and Linda Thompson  
Acolyte  
Counters                      John and Linda Thompson  
Coffee Hour

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