



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

*October 15, 2023*

*10:30 Holy Communion*

What is God like? What does God want from us? What is the Holy Spirit? How does it come to us and how does it guide us? These are all good questions. They can be difficult to answer. But in our gospel reading from John 14 Jesus tells us these things. He does not give us specifics, but he does give us the principles we need in order to understand.

*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 As the Deer

(For music turn to Hymn 2 in the Songbook binder)

**1. As the deer panteth for the water,  
so my soul longeth after thee.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship thee.**

**Refrain: You alone are my strength, my shield;  
To you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship thee.**

**2. You're my friend and You are my brother  
even though you are a King.  
I love you more than any other,  
So much more than anything.      Refrain**

**3. I want you more than gold or silver,  
only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver  
And the apple of my eye.      Refrain**

Text and music: Martin Nystrom; Copyright 1984 Maranatha Praise, Inc. CCLI # 1431

### 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 God,  
the one who forms us,  
Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us bow before God in humility,  
*A moment for reflection*

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation,  
forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**C: Amen**

*Hymn of Praise* Praise the Lord! O Heavens  
(For music see Hymn 823 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him,  
praise him, angels, in the height;  
sun and moon, rejoice before him;  
praise him, gleaming stars and light.  
Praise the Lord, for he has spoken;  
worlds his mighty voice obeyed;  
laws which never shall be broken  
for their guidance he has made.**

**2. Praise the Lord, for he is gracious;  
never shall his promise fail.  
God has made his saints victorious;  
sin and death shall not prevail.  
Praise the God of our salvation;  
hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim;  
heav'n and earth, and all creation,  
laud and magnify his name!**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

† WORD †

First Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," <sup>8</sup>and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Poetry Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (*read responsively*)

L: Shelter me, Lord,  
save me from shame.

**C: Let there be justice:  
save me!**

L: Help me! Listen!  
Be quick to the rescue!  
Be my fortress, my refuge.

**C: You my rock, and fortress,  
prove your good name.**

L: Guide me, lead me,  
free me from their trap.

**C: You are my shelter;  
I put myself in your hands,  
knowing you will save me,  
Lord God of truth.**

L: My life is in your hands  
Snatch me from the enemy,  
ruthless in their chase.

**C: Look on me with love,  
save your servant.**

*Gospel Acclamation (John 14:6)*

**C: Alleluia. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”  
Alleluia.**

*Gospel Reading* John 14

*The gospel is announced:*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus continued] “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

<sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” <sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, “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. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup>“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

<sup>28</sup>You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup>And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. <sup>30</sup>I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; <sup>31</sup>but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

*After the reading:*

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

*Children’s Sermon*

*Sermon*

*Hymn of the Day* Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
(For music turn to Hymn 631 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

### 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 power, God of plenty,  
**C: all things belong to you.**  
**We bring your gifts to the table,  
that all might be fed.**  
**Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat, and live.

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)*

**623** *Rock of Ages (Red Hymnal)*

**624** *Jesus Still Lead On (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:

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## † SENDING †

Blessing

P: The God of glory,  
Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn    Soon and Very Soon

(For music turn to Hymn 439 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Soon and ve-ry soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and ve-ry soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and ve-ry soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
2. **No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more cry-in' there we are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
3. **No more dy-in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more dy-in' there we are goin' to see the King,  
No more dy-in' there we are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
4. **Soon and ve-ry soon we are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and ve-ry soon we are goin' to see the King,**

**Soon and ve-ry soon we are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!  
Hallelljah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

Text and Music: Andrae Crouch; copyright 1976 BudJohn Songs/Crouch Music, admin. The Sparrow Corp.

Dismissal

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**C:** **God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers	Helen Crown
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Mary Zuege
Communion Assistants	Sue Kaufmann
Counters	Mary and Greg Zuege
Coffee Hour	Chicken Barbeque

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, October 22**

Greeters and Ushers	Linda Flood
Acolyte	Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters	Babette Huber and Burdie Gillern
Coffee Hour	

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