

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

*Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Four*



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Prayer before worship:

*Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication. Deliver us, as we come into your presence, from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



**Pre-Service Music**      "Ballet des Matelotz " (M. Praetorius/arr. Noel Rawsthorne)

### Ringling of the Bells

### Welcome

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#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*Matthew 28:19b [18:20]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalm 124:8*

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Psalm 130:3-4*

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*

*Please kneel or be seated for a time of silent prayer and confession, as able*

**P** Almighty God,

**C have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

**C Amen.**

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## SERVICE OF THE WORD

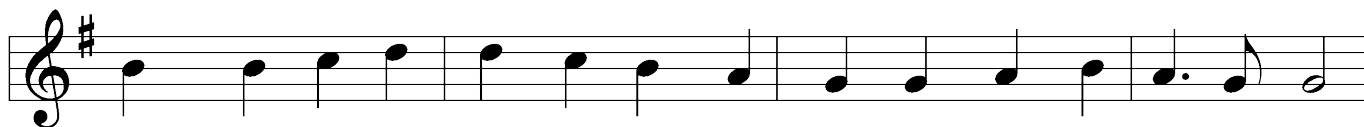
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### Opening Hymn

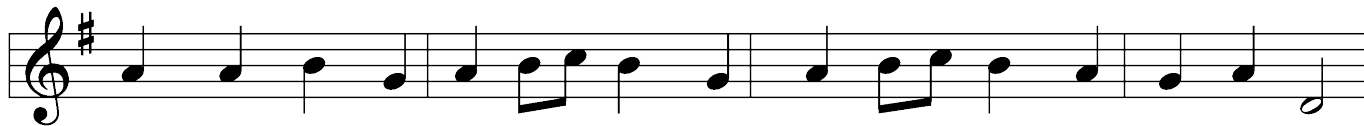
"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (LSB 803)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.  
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt.  
Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867  
Text and tune: Public domain

### 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.**

## Kyrie

Mark 10:47



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14, John 1:29



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good - will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray:

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through

Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Children's Message

### Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-9

<sup>7</sup>"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm *(read responsively)*

32:1-7

**L** Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,\*  
whose sin is | covered.

**C Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,\*  
and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.**

**L** For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away\*  
through my groaning | all day long.

**C For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;\*  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.**

**L** I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my in- | iquity;\*

**C I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.**

**L** Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;\*

**C surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not | reach him.**

**L** You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from | trouble;\*  
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia and Verse



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

*John 20:31*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.*

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. **<sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

<sup>5</sup>"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

<sup>7</sup>"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup>And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

<sup>10</sup>"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>For the Son of Man came to save the lost. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

<sup>15</sup>"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Sermon**

"Wrong Question"

**Hymn of the Day**

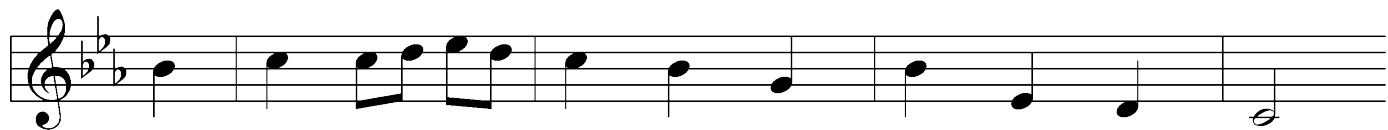
"Lord of All Hopefulness" (LSB 738)



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:  
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-53  
Tune: Irish  
Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318  
Tune: Public domain

**Profession of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by**

the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

**P** Seeking the renewal of the Holy Spirit in our communities and in our world, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. During the season after Pentecost each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy."*

*Please respond by saying "Hear our prayer."*

*The prayers end with the words:*

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

**C Amen.**

*Following the prayers, the people may stand and greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,*

*"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*

*(Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).*

### Installation of Amanda Parks as Director of St. John's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC), ECEC Staff, & Congregational Leaders

### Announcements

### Offertory Prayer

**L** Merciful God,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive



them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

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

*[Colossians 3:1]*

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

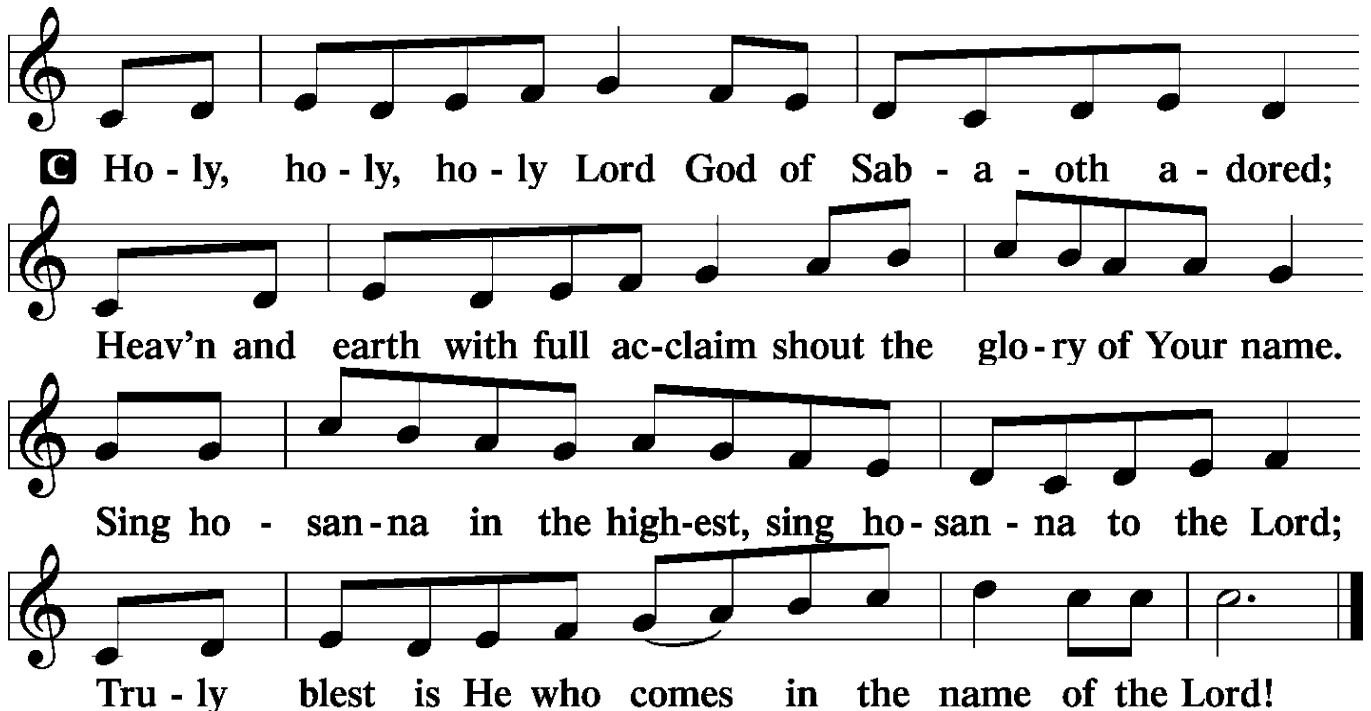
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

*[Psalm 136]*

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**G** **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.**

## The Words of Our Lord

*Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

**P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

John 20:19

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

**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

John 1:29

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. Please remain standing until all are in place and the pastor motions you to kneel. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor when he approaches you at the distribution. The cup will be offered first by individual glass or by the common cup second. If you select the individual glass, please hold the glass in your hand after you have consumed the contents until the celebrant passes you with the common cup to indicate you have already received. The inner (light-colored) ring of the tray of

individual glasses contains non-alcoholic grape juice, for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastors and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

*Please be seated*

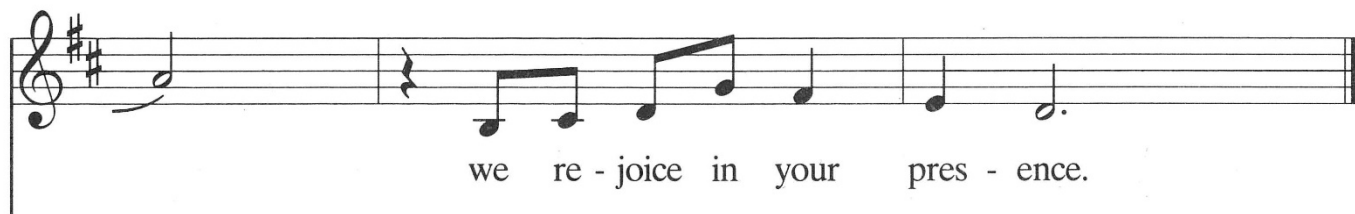
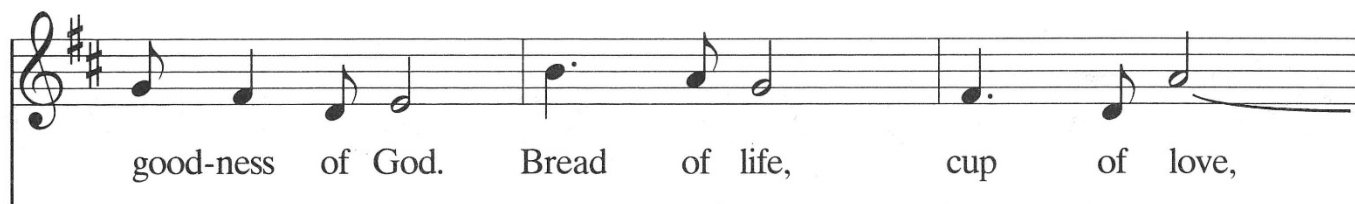
## Music at Distribution

Distribution Anthem: "Like as a Father" (Luigi Cherubini/arr. Austin Lovelace)

*Like as a father, filled with compassion, pities all his children, so the Lord has mercy on those who fear Him. (Psalm 103:13)*

"Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup"

(WOV 706)



praise with heart and voice; in my God I  
 nev - er turn a - way. God will save in  
 guard through good and ill. Those who seek the  
 bless the ho - ly name. Rise to tell God's

glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!  
 ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.  
 Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.  
 great-ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

*refrain*

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, 1995, stanzas (Ps. 34:1-10)  
 Music: Jeremy Young, b. 1948  
 © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

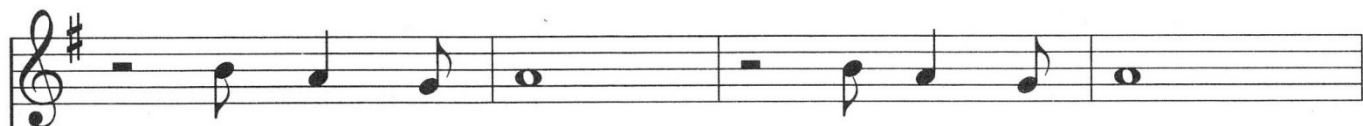
STONERIDGE  
 8 5 9 5 and refrain

## "One Bread, One Body"

(WOV 710)


*Refrain*

One bread, one bod - y, one Lord of all;  
 one cup of bless - ing which we bless,  
 and we, though man - y through-out the earth,  
 we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,  
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,  
 3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

*Refrain*



wom - an or man, no more.  
 one in the Lord of all.  
 gath-ered to one for all.


Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939  
 Music: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939  
 © 1978, 1989 John B. Foley and New Dawn Music

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY  
 4 4 6 and refrain

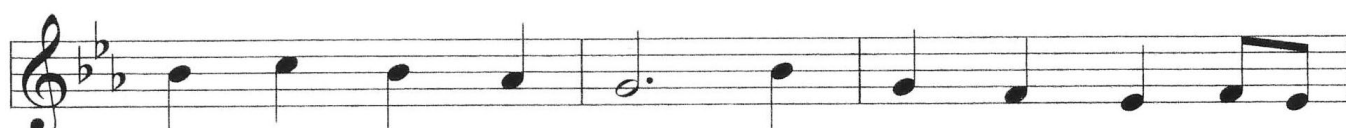
## Dismissal

### Nunc Dimittis


Luke 2: 29-32



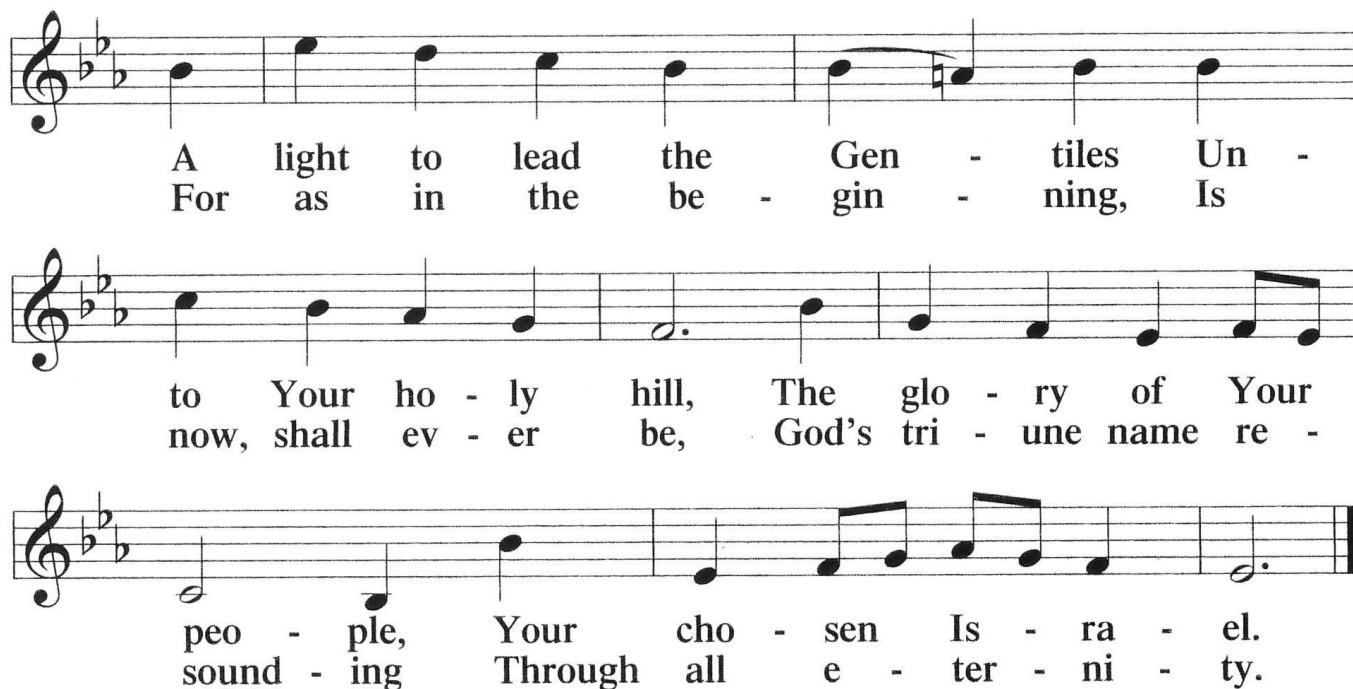
1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**L** Let us pray:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Benedicamus and Benediction

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*[Psalm 103:1]*

**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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

**C Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone" (LSB 912)



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;  
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,  
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His  
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til  
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.  
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.  
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt.  
Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude

"Fanfare" (John Cook)



## **Our Ministry Of Worship**

Officiant/Preacher	Rev. Jack Meehan
Welcome & Children's Message	Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship
Lay Assistant	Steve Tracy
Communion Lay Assistant	Jennifer Hills
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Breanna Tillman
Crucifer	Giulianna Vazquez
Ushers	Jim Lofgren Barbara Pate
Altar Care	Karen Kemmet
AV Operator	Greg Auld Jurgen Gobien
Welcome Host	Jan Swicord
Nursery	Barbara Gilliland

✙ ✙ ✙

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**5952 Franconia Road**  
**Alexandria, VA 22310**

*A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

**St. John's Lutheran Church Staff**

Pastor	Pastor Meehan
Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith
Communication Specialist	Jacqueline Fuller

**Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff**

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ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

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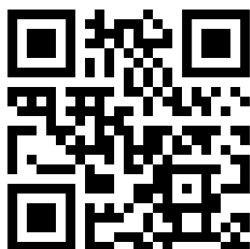


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