

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025; 9 a.m.



St John's
Lutheran Church

(An usher rings the church bell at 8:55 a.m.)

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Mark Lundin, Director of Music Ministry

Prelude

(Acolytes light the candles)

Linda Ranney

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand)*

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,

but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness,

and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,

and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✙ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

ELW #532; *Gather Us In* vs. 1-3

- 1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,
 now is the darkness vanished away;
 see in this space our fears and our dreamings
 brought here to you in the light of this day.
 Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
 gather us in, the blind and the lame;
 call to us now, and we shall awaken,
 we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- 2 We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
 we are the old who yearn for your face;
 we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
 called to be light to the whole human race.
 Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
 gather us in, the proud and the strong;
 give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
 give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
 here we will take the bread of new birth,
 here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
 call us anew to be salt for the earth.
 Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
 give us to eat the bread that is you;
 nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
 lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Apostolic Greeting

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

And also with you.

Kyrie



Canticle of Praise

ACS Setting 12; vs. 1, 3



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a *(please sit)*

- ⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

ACS Setting 12



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



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 14th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon (*please sit*)

Pastor Christine Emerson

Hymn of the Day (*please stand*)

ACS #1062; *Build a Longer Table*, vs. 1, 2, 4

- 1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
 feeding those who hunger, making room for all.
 Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
 Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

- 2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;
where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.
For any place where justice is denied,
Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.
- 4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.
So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

Apostles' Creed

**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 People

Petition:
Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

Offering

(Ushers take up the collection)

Amazing Grace setting by Craig Courtney

Eric Nielsen, baritone

Offertory (*please stand*)

(Ushers bring collection forward for acolytes to receive)

ELW #611; *I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say*, vs. 1-2

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Creator God, **in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

(acolytes prepare for communion distribution; ushers come forward to invite assembly by pew)

Lamb of God



Communion Hymn

ELW #462; *Now We Join in Celebration*

- 1 Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,
of your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.
- 3 Lord, we share in this communion

as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer *(please stand)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Mothering God,
**you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Benediction

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

(Acolytes extinguish the candles)

ELW #760; *O Christ the Same* vs. 1, 3

1 O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the king of all the ages,
unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,

who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

- 3 O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Sending

Go in peace, Live by the spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Linda Ranney

Altar Flowers

In Celebration of the youth & children of St. John's by Eric Nielsen

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Assistant	Eric Nielsen
Lector	Cora Klawiter
Acolytes	Braham Ginter
Ushers	Brian Wagner, Dramus Peuse
Greeters	Sam Pederson, Norb Kirk
Communion Servers	Cheryl Mattison, Natasha Dahlstrom, Timothy Lincoln, Cheryl Stage
Media & Streaming	Lydia Elko
Screen Operator	Lois Mai
Musicians	Linda Ranney, piano/organ; Eric Nielsen, baritone

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