



St. John's Lutheran Church ✠ Time after Pentecost October 18th Facebook Live/Baptism - 8:15am

*Welcome to worship! We are glad you are here! Whether you worship with us online or at home, you are important to us. Please know that because we cannot always "see" you, we may not always know how you are. If you are in need, have prayer concerns, are ill or hospitalized, or if you would like to talk to a pastor or receive Holy Communion, please reach out to us. It can be quite the challenge sometimes to keep track of all our beloved members. Thank you for your shared ministry with us at St. John's. As you likely know, we also could use support through your prayers and **we thank you so much** for your financial gifts to your faith family. We are all in this together for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Peace be with you.*

Announcements

Prelude

The Greeting and Prayer:

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.**

Let us pray. Sovereign God, **raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ELW - #526 "God Is Here!" vs. 1 & 2

- 1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22 *After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?"

¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

Message: "Trick Question?" Pastor Christine Emerson

ELW - #453 "Baptized and Set Free" vs. 1, 3, 4

- 1 We are people created, chosen by God. Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love. Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door to a fountain bringing healing, and wholeness and more.

- 3 We are nourished by water, all living things, and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings. As we journey toward home, may your presence be known: precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.

- 4 Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song. All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong. Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Pastor: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God that Father?

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

(The child, parents and sponsors may come and gather around the font.)

Sponsors: We present **Abby Lynn** for the sacrament of holy baptism.

Pastor: Parents, you bring **Abby Lynn** to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to fulfill these promises?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture **Abby Lynn** in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support **Abby Lynn** and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

People: We do. *(Please include your responses in the Comments.)*

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that she who is washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Abby Lynn I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Pastor: Let us pray...We give you thanks, O God that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. *(Parents lay hands on the head of the newly baptized.)* Sustain **Abby Lynn** with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

Pastor: Abby Lynn, child of God *(Parents uses oil to make the sign of the cross on the forehead of the newly baptized)*...you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Pastor: *(Sponsors take the candle and light it using the Christ candle.)* Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **Amen.**

(The candle is to remind us that we carry the light of Christ throughout our baptized life.)

Pastor: Let us welcome **Abby Lynn** into the community of faith.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(The child, parents and sponsors may return to their seats.)

Prayers

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt (*especially*). Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you (*especially*). We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

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

Blessing

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

ELW #526 “God Is Here!” vs. 3 & 4

- 3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

- 4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Sending

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

(A sign of peace is shared) (Comment your peace to one another.)

Postlude

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Coming up at St. John's:

Today we celebrate the baptism of Abby Lynn Davis. Her parents are Tyler Davis and Kristin Lieffring. Welcome Abby, to our church family!

4 yr. old Bible Milestone is today at 9:30AM in the church parking lot.

AND, Adult Education Bible study on the Parables of the Gospel of Matthew on Tuesday, October 20th, via Zoom. Come and join Pastor Julie for this time of study.