



## St. John's Lutheran Church † Time after Pentecost September 13<sup>th</sup> Facebook Live

*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

**Confession and Forgiveness** (*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
(*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

### 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. O Lord God, merciful judge, **you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **ELW - #459 - Wade in the Water**

### **Refrain**

Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,  
wade in the water, God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

- 1 (See that host all dressed in white,) God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(the leader looks like the Israelite.) God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*
- 2 (See that band all dressed in red,) God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(looks like the band that Moses led.) God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*
- 3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?) God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.) God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*
- 4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,) God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(just follow me down to Jordan's stream.) God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

## **Word: Romans 14:1-12**

**1** Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with - even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently.

**2** For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume all Christians should be vegetarians and eat accordingly.

**3** But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table.

**4** Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help.

**5** Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience.

**6** What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli.

**7** None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters.

**8** It's God we are answerable to - all the way from life to death and everything in between - not each other.

**9** That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

**10** So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly - or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit.

**11** Read it for yourself in Scripture: "As I live and breathe," God says, "every knee will bow before me; Every tongue will tell the honest truth that I and only I am God."

**12** So tend to your knitting. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

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

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35** *When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you

all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

**Message:** Pastor Julie Brenden

**ELW - # 482 - I Come with Joy**

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

**Prayers of Intercession** (*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*)

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make your people a welcoming community of faith. Strengthen us through Bible studies, Preschool and Sunday school, confirmation classes and youth ministries.

Nurture new opportunities for education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. We pray about the wildfires in the West, bring relief, rain, and restoration. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make St. John's a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We thank you for this community of faith where we can live out forgiveness and mercy. We pray for a portion of our members this week, that they see and know your grace, .... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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 # 595 – Jesus Loves Me!**

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*

## **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:**

**Sunday, September 13** following today's worship service, the Sunday School and families will gather at the north parking lot for the Sunday School Kickoff at 9:30 a.m. There will be puppets, games, and all kinds of fun!

**Sunday, September 20** will be Communion Sunday with a few options. Communion will be led online during the Facebook Livestream worship at 8:15 a.m. The second option is to come to the north parking lot at 9:30 a.m. for Curbside Communion. Individually prepared communion will be distributed by the Pastors as you drive through the parking lot. The third option for those who cannot access internet or be present at the distribution in the parking lot is to call the church office and make an appointment for being led through communion over the phone.

**Sunday, September 27** is ***God's Work, Our Hands Sunday***. We will gather for worship on Facebook Live at 8:15 a.m. and celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism.

Read about our outreach work for **God's Work Our Hands** in the September newsletter.

St. John's next Sunday for the TV/Radio ministry is **September 20th**.

Confirmation Orientation is **Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m.** with weekly classes scheduled through the fall. Check your mail for your child's Confirmation information!