

Welcome to Worship

at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
a reconciling in Christ congregation



Heritage Day

July 7, 2024

9:30 am

**Interim Pastor:** The Rev. Mike Button

**Director of Music:** Jessica Madow

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## Statement of Welcome

*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female;  
for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. — Galatians 3:28*

As a community of God striving to be open to all people, we at St. John's Lutheran Congregation believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We welcome all to join us as we struggle to better understand the mysteries of God's teachings. We are challenged by Christ to care for, to love, to understand, and to listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual/affectional orientation, national origin, or economic status. We celebrate together our unity as God's people.

St. John's Lutheran Congregation is a place for each person to shine in their own unique gifts.

## Statement of Mission

St. John's Lutheran Church is a downtown, community-oriented, congregation of Christians. We worship God, strive to welcome, and wholly accept everyone, and reach out with and in God's love.

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**Communion** is a time we invite all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of the Sacrament. If this is your belief, there are instructions to follow at the time of Communion later in the bulletin.

### **Service Notes:**

- (asterisk) indicates, please stand as you are able.
- Page # indicates the front of the hymnal is used . . .
- Hymn # indicates the back of the Hymnal is used . . .

### **Hymn Book Abbreviations:**

ELW – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book  
WOV – With One Voice  
ACS – All Creation Sings

# Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-6

P: Come, let us sing to the LORD;

**C: let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

P: <sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving

**C: and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

P: <sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God,

**C: and a great ruler above all gods.**

P: <sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns of the earth;

**C: the heights of the hills are also yours.**

P: <sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,

**C: and your hands have molded the dry land.**

P: <sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow down,

**C: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

## Gathering Hymn

ELW # 858 *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

## 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## First Reading

**Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 17-21**

<sup>12</sup>So now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? Only to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all

your soul, <sup>13</sup>and to keep the commandments of the LORD your God and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being. <sup>17</sup>For the LORD your God is God of gods and LORD of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, <sup>18</sup>who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. <sup>19</sup>You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. <sup>20</sup>You shall fear the LORD your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. <sup>21</sup>He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Reading:**

**Psalm 33:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous;  
praise is fitting for the upright.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD with the lyre;  
make music for God with a ten-stringed harp.**

<sup>3</sup>Sing for the LORD a new song;  
play your instrument skillfully with joyful sounds.

<sup>4</sup>**For your word, O LORD, is right,  
and faithful are all your works.**

<sup>5</sup>You love righteousness and justice;  
your steadfast love fills the whole earth.

**<sup>6</sup>By your word were the heavens made,  
by the breath of your mouth all the hosts of heaven.**

<sup>7</sup>You gather up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin  
and store up the depths of the sea.

**<sup>8</sup>Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe.**

<sup>9</sup>For God spoke, and it came to pass;  
God commanded, and it stood fast.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD brings the will of the nations to nothing  
and thwarts the designs of the peoples.**

<sup>11</sup>Your will, O LORD, stands fast forever,  
and the designs of your heart from age to age.

## **Gospel**

**Mark 5:1-12**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after  
he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak,  
and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for  
they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of

God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon** — The Reverend Mike Button

**Hymn of the Day** —

ELW # 632 *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

**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.**

## Prayer

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

## Hymn

LBW # 566 *“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”*

- 1     **My country, ’tis of thee,  
sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:  
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims’ pride,  
from ev’ry mountainside let freedom ring.**
  
- 2     **My native country, thee, land of the noble free,  
thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;  
my heart with rapture thrills like that above.**
  
- 3     **Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees  
sweet freedom’s song;  
let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;  
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.**



**4**      **Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty,  
to thee we sing:  
long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light.  
Protect us by thy might, great God, our king.**

## **Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on our country and guide the minds of those who shall choose a president for this nation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for all and equip us to seek the common good.

**C: Amen.**

## **Hymn**

ELW # 705 *“God of Grace and God of Glory”* (verses 1-2)

**1**      **God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your pow'r;  
crown your ancient church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**

**2**      **Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days,**

## Prayer

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth, we humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the fruitfulness of the land and the seas and may prosper all who labor therein; that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn

ELW # 888 *“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”*

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain:  
America! America!  
God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with  
brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**
  
- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more  
than life: America! America!  
May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness,  
and ev'ry gain divine.**
  
- 3 O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years  
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:  
America! America!  
God mend thine ev'ry flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control,  
thy liberty in law.**

## Prayer

A: Let us pray. Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn

ACS# 1062 *“Build a Longer Table”* (verses 1 & 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.**
- 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.**

## Prayer

A: Let us pray. O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrow, and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn

ELW# 887 *“This Is My Song”* (verses 1 & 3)

- 1     **This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
but other hearts in other lands are beating  
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**
  
- 3     **This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,  
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.  
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,  
and hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;  
myself I give you; let your will be done.**

## *The Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

## **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*(Ushers now proceed to the Altar to receive the offering plates...)*

# Offertory

## Presentation of Gifts

*(Ushers now bring the offering plates forward.)*

## Offertory Hymn

ELW# 840 *“Now Thank We All Our God”* (verse 1)

- 1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

## Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**C: 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.**

## Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Although our road has been stony going, you have given us the power to stand firm in the face of wickedness and to rejoice in triumph over death and the grave. And so, with the multitude from east and west, from north and south, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in the unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

**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.**

## *Thanksgiving at the Table*

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness, you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

**C: Amen.**

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

**C: Amen.**

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## *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*



**Holy Communion** - *If you are baptized and believe that it is the real blood and body of Christ, we welcome you at the Lord's table.*

*\*At the invitation of the usher, please proceed to the front to receive communion. Communion is also available in your pew, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.*

## **Communion Hymns**

ELW #623 ***“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”***

ELW #638 ***“Blessed Assurance”***

ELW #629 ***“Abide with Me”***

## **Table Blessing**

### **Prayer after Communion**

A: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

# Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Announcements

## Blessing

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.

**C: Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

ELW # 841 *“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Thank you to our **Worship Volunteers . . .**

**Worship Assistant**– Jim Heck

**Ushers** – Cindy & Bob Black

**Reader** – Wayne Docker

**Altar Guild** – Judi Kalapay / Linda Kalapay

**Video Team** – Brad Thomas

**This Week at St. John's July 7<sup>th</sup> - July 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Today** (7/7/24) – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 am  
“Heritage Day”

**Today** (7/7/24) – Gallery Open – 11:00 -2:00 pm

**Today** (7/7/24) – Following Worship: Finance, Office

**Monday** (7/8/24) – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

**Tuesday** (7/9/24) – Bible Study, 11:00 am - Hospitality Rm.

**Wednesday** (7/10/24) – Prayer Group, 11:00 am – Hospitality Rm.

**Sunday** (7/14/24) – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 am

**Sunday** (7/14/24) – Gallery Open, 11:00 – 2:00 pm

***Prayer Concerns:*** Chuck, Deanna, Joe, Kara, Christine, Steve, Rhemy, Paul, Chris, Michael, Shelley, Jan, Maria, Carolyn, Sarah, Bob, Rita, Terry, Jim, Shirley, Jeff, Debbie, Charlie, Peggy, Tony, Mike, Arlene, Our Homebound Family and Friends, and the St. John's Call Committee and our Future Pastor . . .





Altar Flowers are dedicated today  
by June and Bill Smith  
to honor the 10<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of  
Katie & Jeffery Hunsicker - July 4<sup>th</sup>,  
Daughter and Son-in-law  
of June & Bill.

**Attendance: 57**

Last Sunday's Envelope / Plate Offering	\$1,897.00
Weekly amount needed to reach our Budget:	\$2,126.00
Year to Date Envelope / Plate Offering:	\$51,608.00

Rachel's Circle is collecting food for the **Blessing Box**  
– Pick something up when you are out shopping.  
(non-perishable food please.)



*Check out the Outreach bulletin Board  
in the Narthex . . . "Bloom"*

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