

SERVICE OF THE WORD

SJETTE SØNDAG PÅSKE

17. MAI 2020 † KL. 8.30

ST. JOHNS LUTHERSKE KIRKE † NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Welcome to worship at St. John's!

We especially welcome all who are listening this morning!

During the season of COVID-19 pandemic, St. John's will continue to follow state and federal guidance for public gatherings. We deeply miss seeing our community in person and eating at the Lord's table together. We hold fast to the knowledge that we are not the first generation to experience fear of deadly disease, and we are not the first community separated unwillingly by circumstances.

We know that the resources of our faith can sustain us as we are apart.

Our prayer is that in this broadcast you can hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the Word; that you can sing along and join in fervent prayer for our world, and that as we share the peace, you can set an intention to reach out, in whatever ways this moment allows, to share God's love with someone else.

Video of this week's service will be available from the home page of our website www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Audio recording of the sermon will be archived under the worship tab of the website. If you wish to have a text copy of the sermon mailed to you, please contact the church office. Other helpful links and resources will be posted as they become available at the St. John's Facebook page.



St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

Keith Kolander

Welcome and Announcements

- ☐ Alleluia! Christ is risen.
- ☑ Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

*Gathering Hymn — "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

EARTH AND ALL STARS



Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter tell - ing the
Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es; life in the
Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent: death put a -
Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for -
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; break - ing our bread, giv - ing us
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; heav - en to earth, Christ to the
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, riv - er of life, saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
peo - ple, gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
o - pen! Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise. Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Music: David N. Johnson, © 1969 *Contemporary Worship 1*, admin Augsburg Fortress

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

- ☐ Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

***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.**

***Prayer of the Day**

- ☐ Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and
on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and
give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Acts 17:22-31

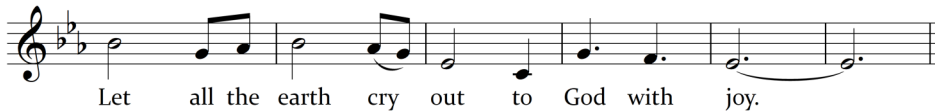
²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

📖 The word of the Lord. 🙏 Thanks be to God.

Psalmody — Psalm 66:8-11, 13-14, 16-17

Luke Mayernik

Refrain (first time: cantor then all)



⁸Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs. ***Refrain, all***

¹³I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—

¹⁴those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue. ***Refrain, all***

Second Reading — 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L The word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

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

*Gospel — John 14:15-21

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter. **C** Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

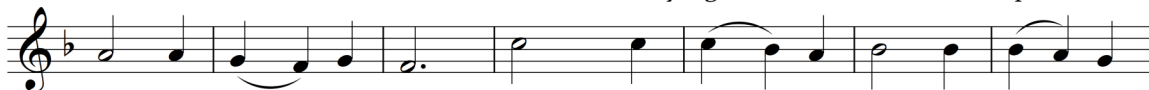
HYFRYDOL



Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

***The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

- ☒ Lord, in your mercy,
- ☒ **hear our prayer.**

***Peace**

- ☒ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☒ **And also with you.**

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

Toccata in C Major

Johann Pachelbel

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

- ☒ God of infinite mercy,
God of everlasting promise,
we thank you for your Word,
which gives us life and light,
which brings healing and hope.
Strengthen us to wait in faith for your peace and justice
until that day when your creation is born anew, freed from affliction,
through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.
- ☒ **Amen.**

***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.**

DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

*Blessing

Response:

C Amen.

*Sending Hymn — “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY



Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
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 - brok - en 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,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



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.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

*Dismissal

- L** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!
- L** Go in peace. Proclaim the resurrection.
- C** Thanks be to God!



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Ministers	Keri, Emmett, and Joran Peterson
Organist	Nathan Proctor
Cantor	David Sims

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Bulletin cover from *Icon 1*. Used with permission.

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Rhubarb “It’s-Almost-Summer” Celebration!

Even though we cannot gather for Rhubarb Sunday, let’s carry on St. John’s annual tradition.

Have Extra Rhubarb from Your Garden to Share?

Drop it off outside the main doors at St. John’s on Saturday, May 23, between 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Want Rhubarb to Make & Share Desserts?

Pick up rhubarb on Sunday, May 24, between 10:00-11:30 a.m.
in St. John’s north parking lot (off 2nd Street).

Tell those who share your rhubarb treat about the tradition of enjoying rhubarb desserts together at St. John’s. This year we get to share the tradition with friends & neighbors.

Share your recipes and photos with St. John’s!

Send pictures of recipes and/or your rhubarb celebration to photos@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by David Sudermann and Mary Cisar. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: August 9, 16 23 & 30. Video broadcasts can be seen on Northfield Community Television (NTV) - cable channel 187, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Video of this week's service along with previous weeks (from March 29 until current) are available from the home page at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Audio recording of the sermon will be archived under the worship tab of the website. If you wish to have a text copy of the sermon mailed to you, please contact the church office. Other helpful links and resources will be posted as they become available on the COVID-19 page on the St. John's website and on the St. John's Facebook page.

Special Guest Dr. Deanna Thompson will be joining our Virtual Pub Theology tomorrow, Monday, May 18, at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Thompson is the Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at St. Olaf and will be sharing insights from her book *Glimpsing the Resurrection*, and how her experience of trauma and indefinite grief with Stage IV cancer correlates with our current communal experience during this pandemic. Participants are invited to read this article on her blog as preparation: <https://deannaathompson.com/how-talking-about-illness-related-trauma-makes-healing-more-possible/>

Thank you to St. John's volunteers and staff that allowed us to host a Red Cross Blood Drive this past Thursday. All slots for donations were filled, and blood is needed more than ever.

A Safe Operating Task Force has been formed to plan for safe operations for St. John's during the ongoing pandemic. Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Pastor Jonathan Davis, Vice-President Ruth Dahl, and Dr. Rod Christensen will be meeting regularly to help the Church Council and staff plan for ministry in the weeks and months ahead. Members should be prepared for significant changes in how we do ministry, even as the stay-at-home order comes to an end. Staff will continue to work from home through the end of the May as we make plans to operate within physical distancing guidelines.

Giving Statements will be mailed to the congregation along with a mini-newsletter at the end of the month. Because print newsletters are difficult to keep up-to-date in our quickly changing environment, publication of the print Voice is suspended for the time being, but members should contact staff about announcements of interest to the whole community. Our website, especially the COVID link at the top of the home page, remains the most up-to-date source for church information.

How Can You Help?

This question continues to be asked everyday. It's heartening to know that we have a community that is ready to step up in a crisis.

- First and foremost, stay at home as much as possible during the Governor's stay-at-home order, which currently extends to May 18. Secondly, connect with neighbors and friends, especially health care workers, those who are at risk, and people with small children who suddenly find themselves 24/7 together.
- St. John's continues to need your **regular financial gifts**. Although we can't be with you all in person, we want to continue to pay our staff. Giving online is easy at StJohnsNorthfield.org. Contact the church office at 507-645-4429 to set up automatic gifts. Or mailed offerings will continue to be welcomed. If you are in a position to pay ahead on your annual pledge, that will also help us get through this difficult time. Contact Leah Garlie at 507-645-4429 if you would like to set-up automatic online giving.
- Local sewers are making **cloth face masks** for use by health care and other essential workers. Material can be picked up in the St. John's parking lot from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. each Monday. Finished masks are returned to the same spot. For details on this effort and to get instructions, email Kathy Ness at KJL.Ness@gmail.com.
- Many **prayer shawls** made by our knitters were distributed to members who are on lockdown in care facilities. If you would like to make one (the patterns are easy), contact Sue Sharrow to learn how.
- Our Sunday School's **Blessing Box** is seeing a high level of both donations and people receiving these blessings. Nonperishable foods, cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene supplies, and toilet paper are especially welcome donations.
- The **Red Cross** still needs blood, maybe now more than ever. Go to the Red Cross website at www.redcross.com if you are eligible to donate. Drives are still happening locally.
- The **Community Action Center** is preparing for a deluge of needs. The quickest way to help is to donate financially. The CAC can make those gifts go further than your own grocery store donations. They are also building their volunteer base. [For more information visit their web-site.](#)
- **Local businesses**, especially the ones that are usually social hangouts, are trying to quickly pivot to serve you in different ways. Take advantage of all those take-out and delivery options. And if you can't use them now, buy a gift card that you can use in the future.

Prayer Requests

We are called to remember one another in prayer. The church office has been made aware of the following persons for whom we pray today. This list is also for your use this week.

Healing and Support

Those in the hospital or in need of healing

Marlene Engstrom

Becca Liv Neuger (daughter-in-law of Dave and Ruthie Neuger)

Bob Scholz

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Carol Carlson

Family of Sigrid Gronning

Family of Wally Wegner

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Mary Ingbritsen, Donna James, Gene and Delores Nelson,

Becky Ness, Susan Nissen, John Quam, Joanne Sommers, Tom Sorenson,

Jim Thompson, Julie Westerback, Laila Burns Hedstrom

All who are homebound, including

Lois Pearson, Gloria Porter, Lois Rand

Involved in the mission of the church who have ties to St. John's

The Savior (El Salvador) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia;

Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania;

Mark Rich and Cynthia Holder Rich, ELCA missionaries in Tanzania

Prayer Requests / Stephen Ministry Requests

Stephen Ministry Requests

Call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Prayer Chain Requests

Contact Mary Cisar at 507-663-1097 or macisar@gmail.com, or contact a pastor.

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (May 24):

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14 † Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 † 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 † John 17:1-11

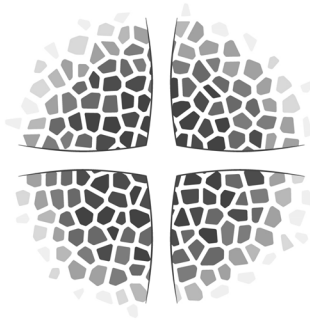
This Week At-a-Glance

*The calendar below contains only St. John's events.
The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

**We continue to follow state guidelines for public gatherings as long as social distancing continues.
We expect all Sunday worship to be on the radio or online at least through the end of May.
Wednesday after-school programming is canceled for the rest of the year,
in concert with schools doing distance learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.**

The 8:30 a.m. worship services will be radio broadcasts (www.kymnradio.net).

Monday, May 18	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Women of St. John's Executive Board Meeting Youth Open Door: Virtual Brunch Break & Worship via Zoom Virtual Manna & Mercy Text Study via Zoom Virtual Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, May 19	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Tuesday Zoom Coffee Break
Wednesday, May 20	10:00 a.m. 6:15 p.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break Confirmation / High School Youth Group Hour via Zoom
Thursday, May 21	12:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	Executive Committee via Zoom Thursday Zoom Coffee Break via Zoom
Friday, May 22	10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Friday Zoom Coffee Break via Zoom Middle School Zoom Deeper Connections High School Zoom Deeper Connections
Saturday, May 23		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, May 24	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast Kitchen & Worship with Youth and Families via Zoom



St. John's

ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

500 Third Street West

Northfield, MN 55057

507-645-4429

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Pam Fickenscher, Senior Pastor

Jonathan Davis, Associate Pastor

Carol Benson, Director of Jubilate Choir

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry

Tim Byers, Facility Manager

Leah H. Garlie, Office Manager / Finance Manager

Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator

Christy Hall-Holt, Welcome Ministry Coordinator

Emmanuel Kaghondi, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse

Arielle Loy, Director of Alleluia Choir

Zachery Pelletier, Director of Rejoice Ringers

Jaida Gehring / Marvin Perez, Security and Custodial Assistants

Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.