



SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 5, 2020 † 9:30 A.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † 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 — on FINLANDIA

Franklin Ashdown

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — "This Is My Song" (#887)

FINLANDIA

This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun - light
This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms, your king - dom
peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine. But oth - er lands have
come; on earth your will be done. O God, be lift - ed
coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - 'ry -
up till all shall serve you, and hearts u - nit - ed
dreams, my ho - ly shrine; but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. So hear my song, O God of all the
learn to live as one. So hear my prayer, O God of all the
beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.
na - tions, my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, sts. 1-2, Georgia Harkness, st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Company; Music: Jean Sibelius, © Breitkopf and Härtel

*Thanksgiving at the Font

- P** We praise you, O God, for water—
the Cannon and Mississippi rivers,
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing.
- C** We praise you, O God, for water.
- P** We remember the waters of Jesus—
baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet.
- C** We praise you, O God, for water.
- P** We praise you, O God, for this font,
for you breathe into this water to wash away our sin
and birth us each day into your peace and joy.
- C** We praise you, O God, for baptism.
- P** O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
We praise you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
today, tomorrow, forever.
- C** Amen.

*Hymn — “Remember and Rejoice”

ST. THOMAS

Re - mem-ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.
God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.

We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.
Re - new-ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

***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**

- P** You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in
you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

Psalmody — Psalm 145, “I Will Ever Sing Your Praises”

NETTLETON

I will ev - er sing your prais - es, for all time, your name I'll bless;
 You are gra - cious, full of mer - cy, slow to an - ger, quick to love;
 with - out peer is your great glo - ry, lim - it - less your right-eous - ness.
 saints be - low may glimpse your king - dom in the loft - y skies a - bove.
 Each new gen - er - a - tion num - bers all your bless - ings as their own;
 In this life, the best we sa - vor is but com - mon fare to thee;
 to the earth's most far-flung re - gions is your maj - es - ty made known.
 all the rich - es earth can har - vest can - not match your maj - es - ty.

Psalm paraphrase: Michael Morgan, © 1999 Witherspoon Press

Second Reading — Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation — “Alleluia”**

South African, arr. Gobingca Mxadana



***Gospel — Matthew 11:1-19, 25-30**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

¹Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. ²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵Let anyone with ears listen! ¹⁶But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me,

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

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

Hymn of the Day — “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” (#286) HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ

Text: Hans A. Brorson, tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth.

***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 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:

"Down a Country Lane"

Aaron Copland

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

- P** O God of growth and abundance,
like a mustard seed sown in a field,
the smallest of all the seeds becomes a tree,
so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches,
- C** **The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**
- P** Like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with
three measures of flour until all was leavened,
- C** **The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**
- P** Like a merchant in search of fine pearls, finding one of great value,
sells all their possessions and buys the pearl,
- C** **The kingdom of God is here, and coming.**
- P** We thank you for your Word,
which has come and is coming,
and continues to grow within us.
- C** **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**

- P** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn — “Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty” (#777)**

BEACH SPRING



“Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
“Come to me, all trav - lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
“Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live.”
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest.”
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face.”

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow-ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

***Dismissal**

- ☐ Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted;
honor all people; love and serve God, rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “There Is a Happy Land”

George Shearing



SERVING AT ST. JOHN’S TODAY:

Presiding and Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenschner
Assisting Ministers	Patsy and John Ophaug
Organist	Nathan Proctor

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given in memory of Doug Fergen, our brother and uncle, from the Menssen family. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sundays thru August. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: November 15, 22 & 29. 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 will be 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.

New Guidelines for Funerals have been developed by the Safe Operating Task Force, which will be valid at least until July 31. They are posted at the bottom of the COVID-19 page at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Grief Gathering

Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

It can be strange to mourn a loved one without all the usual rituals of gathering with others, eating and sharing stories. Normally each summer St. John's invites those who have lost a loved one in the last year to gather in the Fireside Room. This year, for now, we are gathering via Zoom on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. We will tell stories about our lost ones, share the experiences of the past months, and pray. If you have lost someone you love during this pandemic (whether or not they are family), you are invited to join us. Contact Pastor Pam to RSVP.

Mark Your Calendars

An outdoor worship service is being planned for Sunday, August 2, at 11:00 a.m., on the property of the Welbaum family. Details are still to come, but we look forward to seeing many of you in person in a safer outdoor environment.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolates Continue

Contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to place your order for contactless delivery.

St. John's Website

Please check out our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Our website contains additional information regarding events and programs, along with a link to our online church directory, Church Community Builder (CCB), in the top right hand corner. You can also access the church calendar.

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 safe and follow state guidelines for distancing. Connect with neighbors and friends and support each other remotely.
- 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 website.](#)
- **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.
- **Relief Efforts for the Neighborhoods** of Minneapolis and St. Paul that have experienced fire and destruction are popping up in many places locally. St. John's will continue to listen for how to help our cities' partners. Our sister congregation Holy Trinity Lutheran on Lake Street has been at the center of relief. If you'd like to make a financial contribution to their relief efforts, you can do so through their website, htlcmpls.org - choose "other" in the fund designation options, and type in the word "justice." 100% of gifts will be used to help meet community needs.

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, Elsie Nelsen

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

Arlene Sivanich, Joan Carlson, Richard Olson

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 (July 12):

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13 † Psalm 65:9-13 † Romans 8:1-11 † Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art from *Icon 1*.

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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.*

**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts
on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. through August 30 (www.kymnradio.net).**

Monday, July 6	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, July 7	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom
Wednesday, July 8	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit Bible Study via Zoom
Thursday, July 9	10:00 a.m.	Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit Bible Study via Zoom
Friday, July 10		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, July 11		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, July 12	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast Kitchen & Worship with Youth and Families via Zoom

**The church council has decided that the building will be closed
to in-person gatherings through at least the end of July.**

**The Safe Operating Task Force has recommended that
all access to the building be monitored during this time.
If you have a key or access code, please contact the church office
about the new protocols.**



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD • MN

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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.