



SERVICE OF THE WORD

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 26, 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 — Partita on DUNLAP'S CREEK

John Ferguson

(based on a tune found in the forthcoming
ELW hymnal supplement, *All Creation Sings*)

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — “God of Grace and God of Glory” (#705)

CWM RHONDDA

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are arranged in two columns, with the first column on the left and the second column on the right. The lyrics are as follows:

God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
Lo! The host of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
Cure your chil - dren's war - ing mad - ness; bend our pride to
Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick; Music: John Hughes

*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** Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Children’s Message

First Reading — 1 Kings 3:5-12

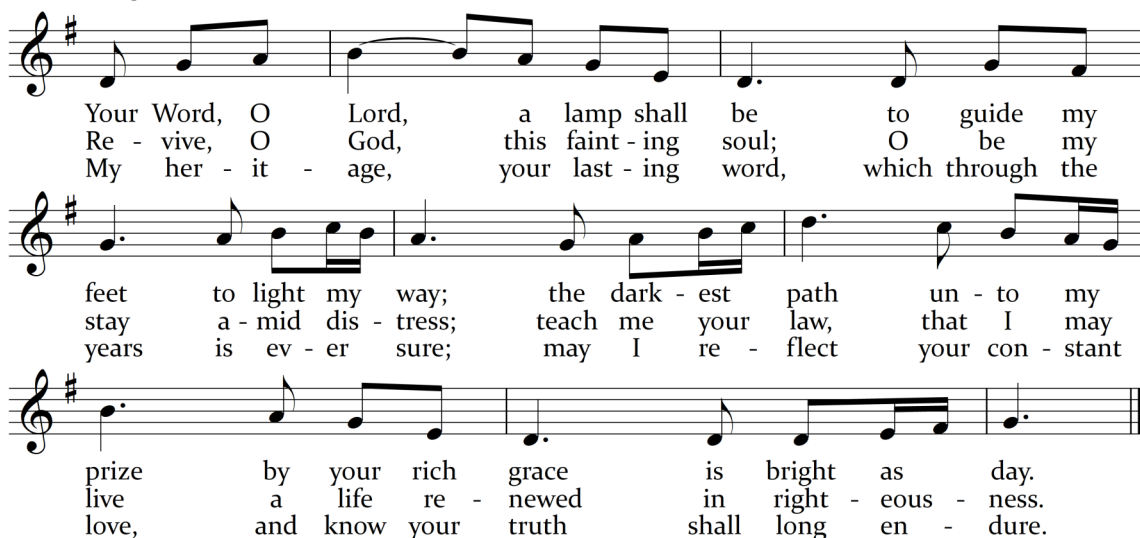
⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

Psalmody — Psalm 119:129-136

O WALY WALY



Your Word, O Lord, a lamp shall be to guide my
 Re - vive, O God, this faint - ing soul; O be my
 My her - it - age, your last - ing word, which through the
 feet to light my way; the dark - est path un - to my
 stay a - mid dis - tress; teach me your law, that I may
 years is ev - er sure; may I re - flect your con - stant
 prize by your rich grace is bright as day.
 live a life re - newed in right - eous - ness.
 love, and know your truth shall long en - dure.

Psalm paraphrase: Michael Morgan, © 1999 Witherspoon Press

Second Reading — Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation — “Alleluia”**

South African, arr. Gobingca Mxadana



***Gospel — Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

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

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

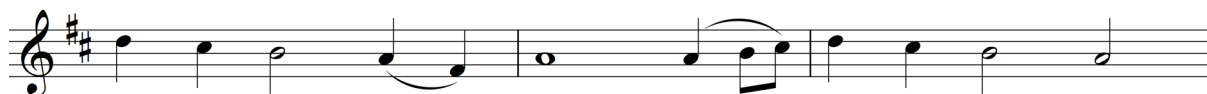
Pastor Pam Fickenscher

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “The Reign of God Like Farmer’s Field” (ACS #952) DUNLAP’S CREEK



The reign of God, like far - mer's field bears
 The reign of God is like a pearl on
 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
 ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Text: Delores Dufner, OSB © 1995, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. *With One Voice*, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

*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:

- L** Lord, in your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

***Peace**

- P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

- C** And also with you.

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

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

Meditation on DUNLAP'S CREEK

John Ferguson

***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

- 🎵 Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
🎵 Amen.

*Sending Hymn — “O Living Bread from Heaven” (#542)

AURELIA

O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here

The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your - self have fed - en me with trea - sures of your grace;
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;

O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,

My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows.
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, tr. Catherine Winkworth; Music: Samuel S. Wesley

*Dismissal

- ℒ 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 — on CWM RHONDDA

Paul Manz



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Assisting Minister	Kristin Partlo
Organist	John Ferguson

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Rob Quanbeck and Dawn Tommerdahl. 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.

RSVP for Outdoor Worship on Sunday, August 2.

St. John's will gather at Goodtree Farmstead northwest of Northfield for a physically distanced outdoor service. We will pray and have Holy Communion together following the radio worship. In order to plan for appropriate physical distancing, we would appreciate your RSVP. Please use this form: <https://forms.gle/8UUHHvj19j1fQiHs7>. We will begin gathering at 11:00 a.m., with a short service beginning around 11:30 a.m. All attendees will be asked to wear masks and to bring their own bread and cup for communion. Ushers will assist you to seat appropriately in family groups. We will not hold the service in excessive heat or if storms threaten. The rain date is August 9.

Adult VBS: Seeing Genesis with Grown-Up Eyes

Many of us learned the stories of Genesis as small children in Sunday School or VBS. But when we read them with adult eyes, all sorts of issues pop out that might not have been so vivid before: sibling rivalry, fertility issues, marital strife, family dysfunction in abundance. And yet, these are the families God chooses to bless the world. Join us for a PG-13 look at the foremothers and fathers. Two times will be offered:

- Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m., August 12, 19 & 26
- Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m., August 6, 13 & 20

Sign up at: <https://forms.gle/eGTfmP5xW2B9AAjYA>

Announcements (continued)

Christ in Our Home Daily Devotional Books (July - September Issue)

A few are still available for the taking in a basket outside of the church by the Commons doors.

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.

Ways to Stay Connected with St. John's

- **Listen on KYMN Radio:** 95.1 FM/1080 AM (kymnradio.net) to the worship service on **Sundays (9:30 a.m. thru August)**. The worship bulletins will be available online and can be accessed on our home page.
- **Videos of Sunday Services and Audio of Sermons.** Video of Sunday services and audio of the sermons are posted on the website. Video recording can be accessed from the top of the home page. Audio recording of the sermon will be archived under the worship tab of the website.
- **For a full list of weekly ongoing opportunities to stay connected or to see the updated funeral guidelines,** go to the website's COVID-19 page: <https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/covid19/>. This can also be accessed from the top of the website's home page.

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

David Halvorson

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of Edgar Wright Jr. (father of Sally Lindell)

Those with ongoing health concerns

Marybeth Bremer, Marlene Engstrom, 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 (August 2):

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5 † Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 † Romans 9:1-5 † Matthew 14:13-21

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 27	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, July 28	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Church Council via Zoom
Wednesday, July 29	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
Thursday, July 30		No Scheduled Activities
Friday, July 31	9:00 p.m.	Movie Night for Middle School, Offsite
Saturday, August 1	1:00 p.m.	Canoe Trip for Middle School and High School, Offsite
Sunday, August 2	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast Outdoor Worship Service, Goodtree Farmstead

The Safe Operating Task Force is recommending that the church building be used for priority small group usage only starting August 1. Small groups wishing to use the church building should contact the church office for scheduling and talking through new building protocols. Staff continue to work from home when possible.



St. John's
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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.