



SERVICE OF THE WORD

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 16, 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.



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 — "Gather Us In"

Jeffrey Honoré

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn — “Gather Us In” (#532)

GATHER US IN



Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

*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.
Breathe into this water, wash away our sin,
and bring Aksel anew 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 — “All Who Are Thirsty” (ACS #981)

ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY

Leader All

All who are thirst-y, come to the wa-ters. All who are hun-gry, come here and eat.

All who are thirst-y, come to the wa-ters. There's e-nough for all.

Text and Music: Brian Wentzel, © 2014 Hope Publishing Company

*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

- Ⓟ God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ☪ **Amen.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

First Reading — Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—

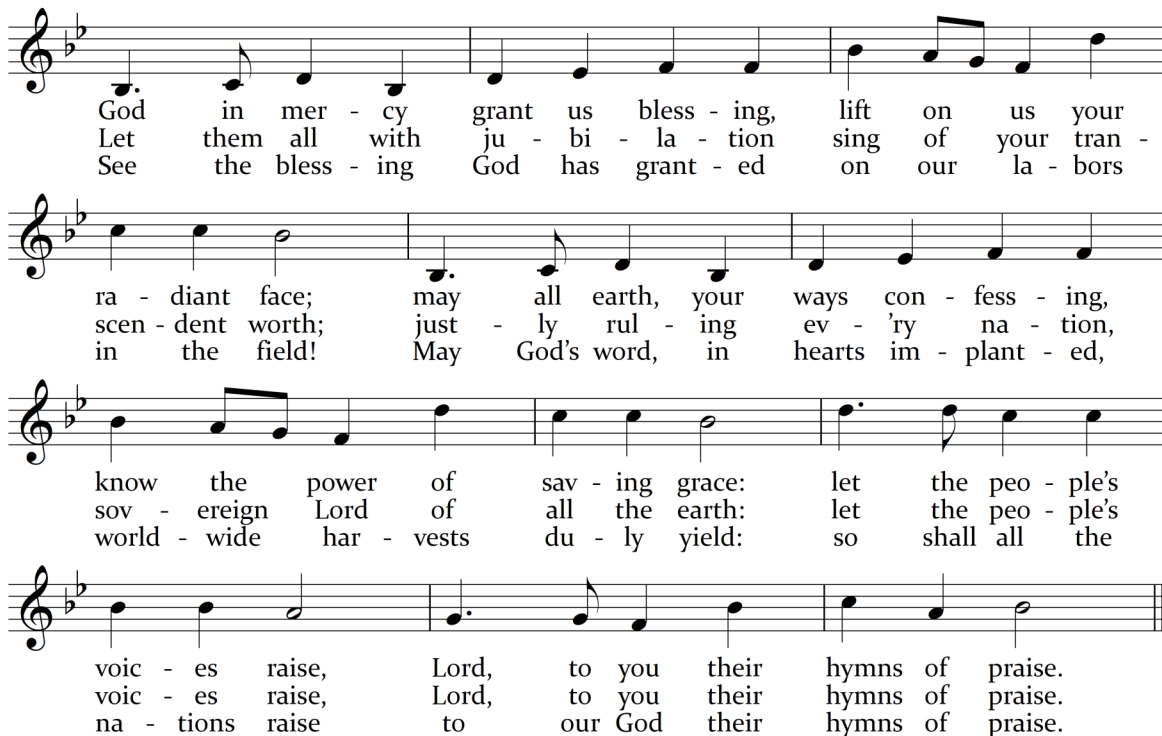
⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

Psalmody — Psalm 67 “God in Mercy Grant Us Blessing”

UNSER HERRSCHER



God in mer - cy grant us bless - ing, lift on us your
 Let them all with ju - bi - la - tion sing of your tran -
 See the bless - ing God has grant - ed on our la - bors
 ra - diant face; may all earth, your ways con - fess - ing,
 scen - dent worth; just - ly rul - ing ev - 'ry na - tion,
 in the field! May God's word, in hearts im - plant - ed,
 know the power of sav - ing grace: let the peo - ple's
 sov - ereign Lord of all the earth: let the peo - ple's
 world - wide har - vests du - ly yield: so shall all the
 voic - es raise, Lord, to you their hymns of praise.
 voic - es raise, Lord, to you their hymns of praise.
 na - tions raise to our God their hymns of praise.

Psalm paraphrase: David G. Preston © The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Company

Second Reading — Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected God's people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom God foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that God may be merciful to all.

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

***Gospel Acclamation — “Alleluia”**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation "Alleluia". Both staves are in the treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." are written below the notes.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, © 1985 admin. OCP Publications

***Gospel — Matthew 15:10-28**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.

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

¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.”¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?”¹³He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”¹⁵But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.”¹⁶Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding?¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles.¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn of the Day — “Be Thou My Vision” (#793)

SLANE



Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart; naught be all
Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word; I ev - er
Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise, thou mine in -
Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won, may I reach



else to me, save that thou art: thou my best thought both by
with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my soul's shel - ter, and
her - i - tance, now and al - ways: thou and thou on - ly, the
heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun! Heart of my own heart, what -



day and by night, wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
first in my heart, great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
ev - er be - fall, still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, tr. Mary E. Byrne

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism — *Front of hymnal pages 227-231*

The Triune God proclaims Aksel Montgomery Roberts Loy as a beloved child this morning in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Aksel's parents are Arielle and Adam Loy, and his sponsors are Julia Loy, Ron Warholic, Susan Roberts-Dobie, and Mark Dobie.

Presentation

- P** People of God, do you promise to support Aksel and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
- C** We do.

*Profession of Faith

- P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- All** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

- P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- A** **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.**
- P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- A** **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.**

***Thanksgiving at the Font**

Baptism

Welcome

- P** People of God, Aksel is our new brother in Christ,
 Let the people say, Amen!
- A** **Amen!**
- P** He is a worker with you in the kingdom of God,
 Let the people say, Welcome!
- A** **Welcome!**
- P** Aksel belongs to God forever,
 Let the people shout, Alleluia!
- A** **Alleluia!**

***Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition:

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

***Peace**

- P** The peace of Christ be with you always. **G** **And also with you.**
You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

Offering of Our Gifts

Music at the Offering:

“Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”

John Bell, arr. Ronald Nelson

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death; victory is ours, through God who loves us.

- Desmond Tutu

*Thanksgiving for the Word

- ☐ O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you that you illumine our
way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.
- ☑ 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:

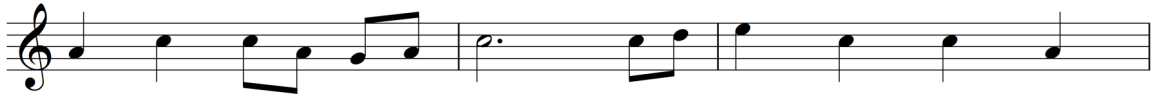
- ☑ Amen.

***Sending Hymn** — “In Christ There Is No East or West” (#650)

MCKEE



In Christ there is no east or west, in
In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their
Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -
In Christ now meet both east and west, in



him no south or north, but one com - mu - ni -
high com - mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be. All chil - dren of the
him meet south and north; all Christ - ly souls are



ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, alt.; Music: African American spiritual; adapt Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

***Dismissal**

- L** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Fanfare on MCKEE”

Charles Callahan



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Pam Fickenscher
Preaching	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Assisting Minister	Arielle Loy
Organist	Nathan Proctor

Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Otto and LaVerne Reitz in honor of all health care workers. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Sundays thru September 6. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: November 29 and December 20, 24, 25 & 27 . 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.

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 19 & 26
- Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m., August 20

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

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.

Middle School Youth Event

Thursday, August 20, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Middle School Youth are invited to a service project event. Feel free to invite a friend — we're sharing these summer events with youth from other Northfield area churches as well! We will meet at Adaugeo Farms where we will participate in an event to build bunks for kids who are currently sleeping on the floor. The organizers of this project are adjusting their practices to provide a safe and healthy place where we can still come together to make a difference. Register by today - there are a limited number of spots! Check your email for a link to register or send an email to youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Announcements (continued)

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 September 6).** 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 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.

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

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 celebrating the baptism of

Aksel Montgomery Roberts Loy, son of Arielle and Adam Loy

Those celebrating the anniversary of

40 years of marriage on this day for Alan and Lynette Marks

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, 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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art from *Icon 1*.

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This Week At-a-Glance

*The full calendar of events and building usage can be accessed
on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.*

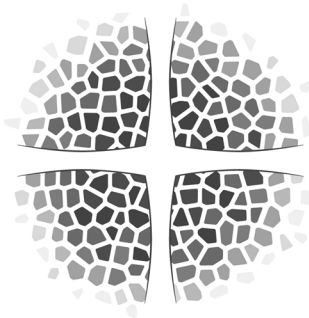
**Our radio worship schedule will continue with broadcasts
on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. through August 30 (www.kymnradio.net).**

Monday, Aug. 17	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study via Zoom Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, Aug. 18	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Stephen Ministers via Zoom Evangelism & Communication Board Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, Aug. 19	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break Adult VBS: Seeing Genesis with Grown-Up Eyes via Zoom
Thursday, Aug. 20	10:00 a.m.	Adult VBS: Seeing Genesis with Grown-Up Eyes via Zoom
Friday, Aug. 21		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Aug. 22		No Scheduled Activities
Sunday, Aug. 23	9:30 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast

Lectionary Readings for Next Week (August 23):

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6 † Psalm 138 † Romans 12:1-8 † Matthew 16:13-20



St. John's

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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.