



SERVICE OF THE WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 † 9:00 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.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Today we rejoice in the gifts of baptism: the promise of God's faithfulness and forgiveness, the enlivening power of the Holy Spirit, and life together in the body of Christ. This year, as we cannot gather all our 10th graders and their families at once, we will be celebrating Affirmation of

Baptism with each student on separate Sundays—claiming God's promises for them at this moment in their lives. They have been through a long journey of catechesis in the faith, and many family members, teachers, and mentors have been part of this formation with them. We rejoice that they are ready to publicly claim God's promises to them stating their intentions to continue in the faith: to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's word and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. They are:

**Mason Babbini, Ben Blomberg, Rhett Garlie, Lucy Messen,
Johann Schroeer, Thomas Weber, Gus Welbaum**

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude — Two settings of “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn** — “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices” (#833)

O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE



Oh, that I had a thou - sand voi - ces to praise my
Let ev - 'ry pow'r in me im - plant - ed a - rise, keep
You for - est leaves so green and ten - der that dance for
All crea - tures that have breath and mo - tion, that throng the

God with thou - sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
si - lence now no more; put forth the strength that God has
joy in sum - mer air, you mead - ow grass - es, bright and
earth, the sea, the sky, come, share with me my heart's de -

joic - es, would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs to all, wher -
grant - ed! Your no - blest work is to a - dore! O soul and
slen - der, you flow'rs so fra - grant and so fair, you live to
vo - tion, help me to sing God's prais - es high! My ut - most

ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me!
bod - y, join to raise with heart - felt joy your mak - er's praise!
show forth praise a - lone. Join me to make God's glo - ry known!
pow'rs can nev - er quite de - clare the won - ders of God's might!

Text: Johann Mentzer, tr. composite © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; Music: Johann B. König

*Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

C Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Source of all life,

C we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of
love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn
the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us.
Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak
for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your
whole creation. Amen.

*Absolution

*Hymn of Praise — “Glory to God” (ACS #911)

GLORIA A DIOS

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est. Peace be to you, peace be to me, peace be to all, peace to all the earth." The score consists of three lines of music. The first line contains the first three measures, the second line contains the next three measures, and the third line contains the final three measures, ending with a double bar line.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the
high - est. Peace be to you, peace be to me,
peace be to all, peace to all the earth.

Text and Music: Marcus Veenstra; arr. Greg Scheer, © Marcus Veenstra, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***Greeting**

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
A And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

- P** God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings.
Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those
things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

HEARING GOD’S WORD

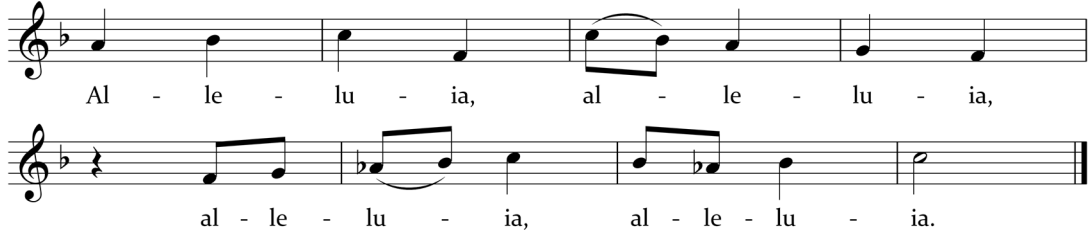
Children’s Message

First Reading — Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel — Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

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

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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 — “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” (#712)

BEACH SPRING



Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, © Oxford University Press; Music: *The Sacred Harp*, arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

*Affirmation of Baptism and Rite of Confirmation

Presentation of Lucy Menssen

Prayer

☒ Amen.

Profession of Faith

☐ Lord, we believe.

☒ Help our unbelief.

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

Intent to Continue in Our Baptismal Covenant with God

Promise of the Assembly

- P** People of God, do you promise to support Lucy and pray for her in her life in Christ?
- C** **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Prayer of Invocation

- P** We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.
- C** **Amen.**

Confirmation through Laying On of Hands and Prayer

Celebrating with the Confirmand

- P** Let us rejoice with Lucy, our sister in Christ.
- C** **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Musical Affirmation — “Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am” (#814)

John Bell

Sung twice.

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two lines of the song, and the second staff contains the final line. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Text and Music: John L. Bell, © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications

***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:

“Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

Walter Pelz

***Thanksgiving for the Word**

- Ⓔ Gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, rich in love, we bless your name and give you thanks. In our need, you make haste to help us. You plant us beside streams of your wisdom, you teach us in pastures greenening with truth, and guide us on the path of your promise. By your Spirit awaken our faith, that, feasting on your Word, we may love you more fully and serve our neighbor more faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Ⓒ 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 — “Before You, Lord, We Bow” (#893)

DARWALL'S 148TH

Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -
And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from

rules the world be - low with bound - less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your
all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less

bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!
tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key; Music: John Darwall

***Dismissal**

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

Postlude — Prelude and Fugue in F Major

Vincent Lubeck, Jr.



SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:

Presiding	Pastor Jonathan Davis
Preaching	Pastor Pam Fickenschier
Assisting Minister	Lucy Menssen
Organist	Nathan Proctor

4th Grader's Communion Celebration

On Saturday, September 12, St. John's 4th graders gathered for an outdoor retreat with their parents to learn about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Those attending the retreat:

***Otto Bash, Violet Froehle, Eleanor Godfrey, Luke Nelson,
Edie Pellinen, Luke Thorsheim, Lucas Van Sickle***

At the outdoor service on Sunday, September 13,
the following children received their first communion:

Otto Bash, Violet Froehle, Eleanor Godfrey, Edie Pellinen, Luke Thorsheim

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Announcements

Today's Radio Broadcast is given by Joe and Amanda Timmer in honor of Barry and Sandy Kailhofer in celebration of their 39th wedding anniversary. Sunday services are broadcast on KYMN Radio 1080AM / 95.1FM from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Sundays. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (cost is \$160), please contact the church office. Dates available: December 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.

Coffee Hour via Zoom: Connect with St. John's Friends

We will have a "virtual coffee hour" on Sundays in the Fall starting at 10:30 a.m. After 5 minutes, you will be distributed randomly into small conversation groups. The Zoom link can be found in this past week's E-Voice or on the church calendar on our website. Join in when you can (even after 10:30 a.m.) and leave when you need. All are welcome!

Weekly Videos for Our Littlest Members

Each Saturday a new video will be posted on St. John's website for our 3, 4, and 5 year old children to enjoy! This fall, we'll be exploring the Story of Creation; God made the heavens and earth and God made YOU! Check it out at <https://StJohnsNorthfield.org/>.

Join Us on Sunday Mornings for Virtual Sunday School

St. John's is hosting a Virtual Sunday School for kids in grades K-5. Listen to the worship service at 9:00 a.m. on KYMN, then jump on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. to virtually be with your St. John's friends! Families receive a Zoom link via email on Friday morning and again on Sunday morning. Feel free to contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org to sign up for her emails if you have not been receiving them. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Pub Theology via Zoom

Mondays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's Topic: *However we feel faith and politics should interact, how can we grow?*

- What are we called to do, as individuals or as a congregation? Are we doing what God expects of us?
- How could we do better as a congregation? How might we share our opinions, knowledge, energy, and curiosity? How can we learn from others?
- What issues are most important to focus on?
- Are there important issues we are avoiding?
- How can we discern when we should be patient or impatient?
- Can we make honest disagreement among the faithful into a strength?

Announcements (continued)

Women of St. John's Courageous Conversations with Dr. María Pabón Gautier via Zoom Thursday, October 1, 7:00 p.m. (Registration Required)

Please join us, via Zoom, for an event with Dr. María Pabón Gautier, Director of St. Olaf's Center for Equity and Inclusion, as she speaks on unconscious bias and how that has an effect on our daily actions. This event is sponsored by St. John's Women Courageous Conversations and St. John's Adult Ministry & Education Board.

- Register at: www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous
- Dr. Pabón's Bio: <https://www.stolaf.edu/profile/pabong1>
- Upcoming Courageous Conversations Events: www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/programs

Reading the Bible Six Ways begins this week and will continue for six weeks. Sessions are via Zoom on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Follow the zoom link on the St. John's calendar. Come once or all six times to learn a variety of ways to read the Bible for study or devotion.

Meals on Wheels Update

We have now filled all 112 needs for drivers for Meals on Wheels! Thanks so much for your generous gift of time and goodwill in bringing a hot meal to those in need in our community.

Kathy Shea on behalf of the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

Growing Pumpkins this Year?

Julie Brehmer is looking for pumpkins to give to children at St. John's this year. If you are growing pumpkins and would like to donate a few, send her an email at:

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thanks so much!

Message from St. John's Stephen Ministers

There are many losses we are all feeling with COVID-19 such as the death of loved ones, separation from family and friends, suspended worshipping at St. John's, and loss of income. St. John's Stephen Ministers are available to meet with you one-on-one or in small group sessions via Zoom where we can talk about these changes in our lives. If this would be helpful to you, contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

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.

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, & Chocolates and Thistle Farms Hand Soaps

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

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

Marybeth Bremer, Andy Nelson, Bev Sponheim, Debbie Oelke (cousin of Kiandra Judge)

Those mourning the loss of a loved one

Family of David Halvorson

Family of Judy Aarsvold Indrelie (cousin of Janet Lotegeluaki)

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

Berta Diem, Virley Brown, Elouise Quinnell

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 (October 4):

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

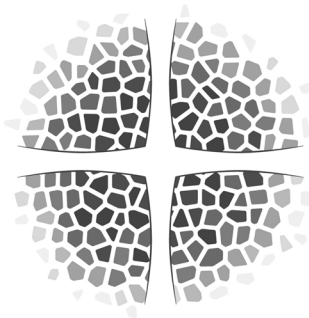
Isaiah 5:1-7 † Psalm 80:7-15 † Philippians 3:4b-14 † Matthew 21:33-46

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 9:00 a.m. (www.kymnradio.net).**

Monday, Sep. 28	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Virtual Manna and Mercy Text Study Pub Theology via Zoom
Tuesday, Sep. 29	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Quilters, Fellowship Hall Staff Meeting via Zoom Worship Planning for Staff via Zoom Reading the Bible Six Ways Bible Study via Zoom
Wednesday, Sep. 30	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Zoom Coffee Break
Thursday, Oct. 1	7:00 p.m.	Women of St. John's Courageous Conversation via Zoom
Friday, Oct. 2		No Scheduled Activities
Saturday, Oct. 3	4:30 p.m.	Women of St. John's Boomer Group via Zoom
Sunday, Oct. 4	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Worship via Radio Broadcast Virtual Sunday School via Zoom Sunday Youth Programming via Zoom Coffee Hour via Zoom: Connect with St. John's Friends



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.