



# ST. JOHN'S

LUTHERAN † CHURCH

501 Chestnut Street  
Emmaus, PA 18049  
Phone: 610-965-9885  
[www.stjohnsemmaus.org](http://www.stjohnsemmaus.org)

St. John's is a congregation of the Lehigh Mission District, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## 16th Sunday after Pentecost September 25, 2022

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

- MINISTERS..... The Baptized People of St. John's
- PASTOR..... The Rev. Jeffrey S. Carstens
- MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR..... Timothy M. Ginder
- PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR..... Denise Mill
- PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT .....Mary Racek
- OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR..... Barbara E. Walck
- BOOKKEEPER .....Anna Galante
- CUSTODIAN ..... Brian P. Dunton
- PASTOR EMERITUS..... The Rev. Fred S. Foerster

**WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We pray that as God speaks to us in worship we will be nurtured in Christian faith and equipped for our life of serving love and justice in the world.

**St. John's Prayer Chain** members pray for your concerns confidentially each day for a week. Request prayers by contacting the Church Office ([info@stjohnsemmaus.org](mailto:info@stjohnsemmaus.org) or 610-965-9885) or coordinator Faith Drescher ([fdresch@ptd.net](mailto:fdresch@ptd.net) or 610- 966-5321).

**Please remember** hospitalized members and friends of St. John's in your prayers of concerns and with a card.

**Let us pray . . .**

for our ELCA and our Presiding Bishop, The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton;  
for our Northeastern PA Synod and our Bishop, The Rev. Christopher deForest;  
for our Lehigh Mission District and our Dean, The Rev. Nelson Quinones.

*“All Christians are but God’s Stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving Him.”*

John MacArthur

☒=Congregation

☒=Assisting Minister

☒=Presiding Minister

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

☒ In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

☒ God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

☒ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

☒ Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

☐ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG*

*“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”*

Hymn 693

*The assembly stands to sing.*

*GREETING*

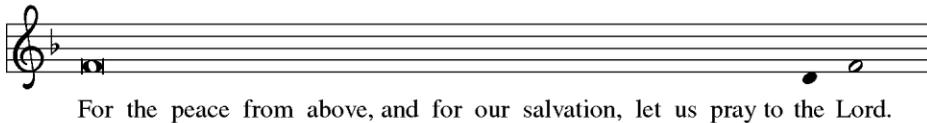
☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ **And also with you.**

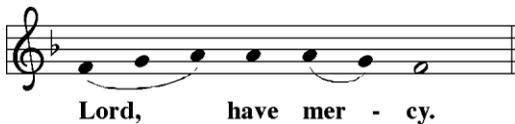
# KYRIE



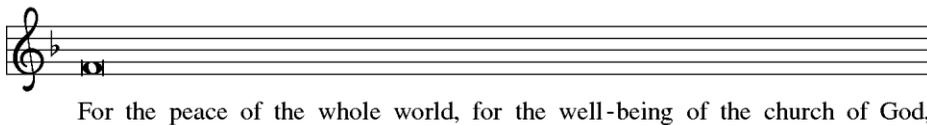
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



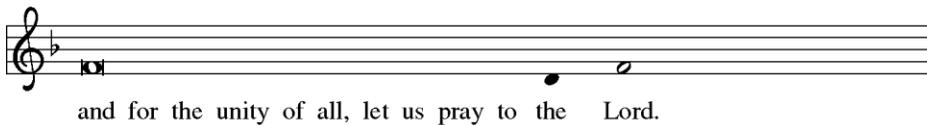
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



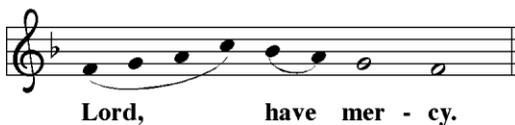
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



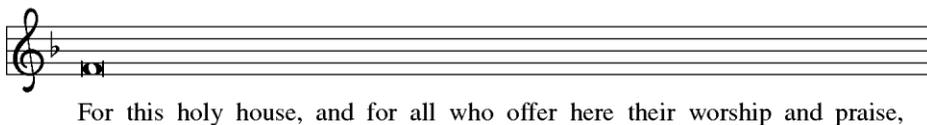
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



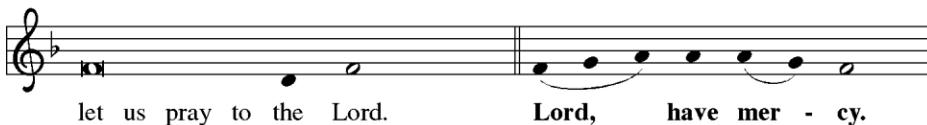
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



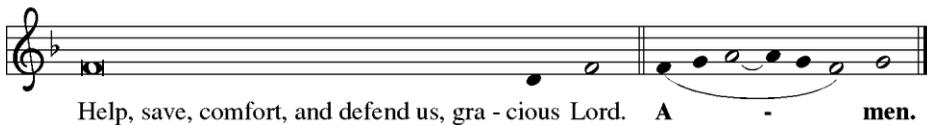
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

*The assembly is seated.*

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING**

**Ezekiel 16:23-30**

<sup>23</sup>After all your wickedness (woe, woe to you! says the Lord GOD), <sup>24</sup>you built yourself a platform and made yourself a lofty place in every square; <sup>25</sup>at the head of every street you built your lofty place and prostituted your beauty, offering yourself to every passer-

by, and multiplying your whoring. <sup>26</sup>You played the whore with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, multiplying your whoring, to provoke me to anger. <sup>27</sup>Therefore I stretched out my hand against you, reduced your rations, and gave you up to the will of your enemies, the daughters of the Philistines, who were ashamed of your lewd behavior. <sup>28</sup>You played the whore with the Assyrians, because you were insatiable; you played the whore with them, and still you were not satisfied. <sup>29</sup>You multiplied your whoring with Chaldea, the land of merchants; and even with this you were not satisfied. <sup>30</sup>How sick is your heart, says the Lord GOD, that you did all these things, the deeds of a brazen whore.

*After the reading:*

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSIVE READING:**

**Psalm 65: 1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Praise is due to you,  
O God, in Zion;

**and to you shall vows be performed,**

<sup>2</sup>O you who answer prayer!

**To you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,

**you forgive our transgressions.**

<sup>4</sup>Happy are those whom you choose and bring near  
to live in your courts.

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,  
your holy temple.**

<sup>5</sup>By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,  
O God of our salvation;

**you are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas.**

<sup>6</sup>By your strength you established the mountains;  
you are girded with might.

**<sup>7</sup>You silence the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples.**

<sup>8</sup>Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;  
**you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it,  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
**you provide the people with grain,  
for so you have prepared it.**

<sup>10</sup>You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
**softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your bounty;  
**your wagon tracks overflow with richness.**

<sup>12</sup>The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
**the hills gird themselves with joy,**

<sup>13</sup>the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
**they shout and sing together for joy.**

## **SECOND READING**

## **Colossians 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

### ***After the reading:***

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

### ***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

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

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
- ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 12:13-21**

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup>Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

***After the reading:***

- ☐ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*SERMON*  
*Silence for reflection*

Pastor Jeff Carstens

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

*APOSTLES' CREED*

☐ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

☑ **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*

☐ As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

O God, rich in mercy, fill your church with righteousness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Empower the baptized by your Spirit to be rich in good works and ready to share. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species. Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Increase justice in nations, local governments, and courtrooms. Guide lawyers and those who hold public office to act with compassion and discernment. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Give food to the hungry. Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Tend to those who are ill. Stir us to act in the best interest of our neighbors. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, artists, poets, and all who create beauty in this place. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Enfold the saints who have died in the arms of your loving care. Grant that the holy angels accompany us and bring us to eternal life with them in the light of your presence. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**☩ Amen.**

### *PEACE*

**☩** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**☩ And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying "Peace be with you" or similar words.*

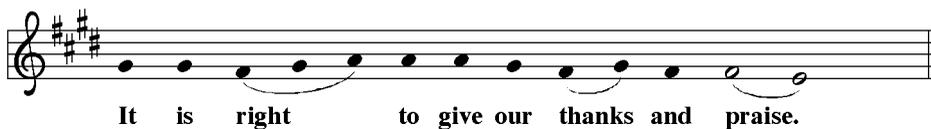
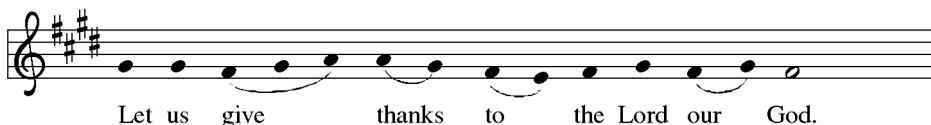
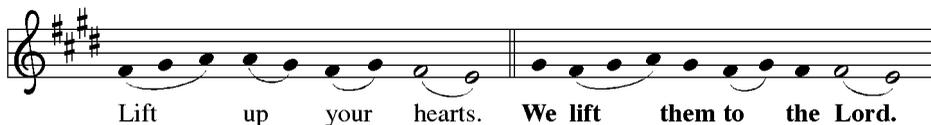
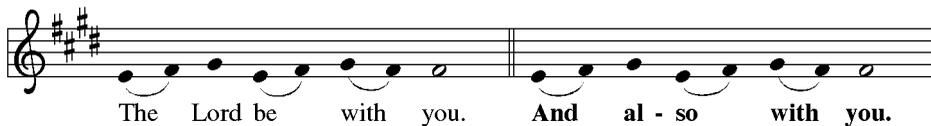
*The assembly remains standing.*

*An Offering of Song may be presented by the choir at this time.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

**P** On the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

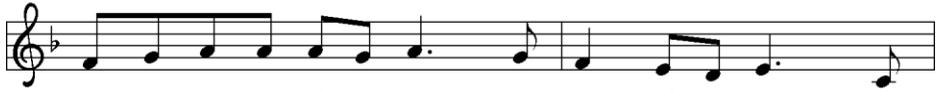
**C** **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### *COMMUNION*

**P** God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly is seated.*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe and teach that in the Holy Communion the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery.*

*Those who for reasons of health do not drink wine, commune fully when receiving only the bread. In partaking of either element (bread or wine), the whole Christ is received. Children who have not yet received first communion instruction are welcome at the altar to receive a blessing.*

*To receive the Sacrament, please follow the directions of an usher to the front of the church via the center aisle. Receive the host from the pastor. Step to the side and take an empty cup from the tray, then receive the wine from the Communion Assistant. Return to your pew via the side aisle, placing your used cup in the waste basket.*

*Persons who are not able to come to the altar are invited to sit in the first pew on the pulpit side where the Pastor will commune you. Please notify an usher.*

*During this period of online worship, we invite you to participate in communion in your own home as the Pastor shares communion with you.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”*

Hymn 484

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C Amen.**

**PRAYER**

**A** God of the abundant table,  
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal  
with bread for the journey.  
Give us your grace on the road  
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

