



501 Chestnut Street
Emmaus, PA 18049

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

12th Sunday after Pentecost August 28, 2022

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

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 or 610-965-9885) or coordinator Faith Drescher (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.

***“Honor the Lord with your wealth with the first fruits of all
your crops then your barns will be filled to overflowing and
your vats will brim over with new wine.”***

Proverbs 39:10

C=Congregation

A=Assisting Minister

P=Presiding Minister

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

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

P In the name of the Father,
and of the \ddagger Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

P 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.

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

P 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.

P 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 *"When Morning Gilds the Sky"* Hymn 853
The assembly stands to sing.

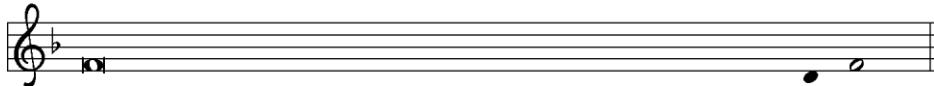
GREETING

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.

KYRIE



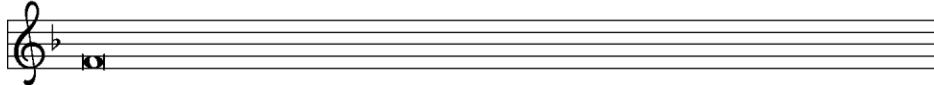
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



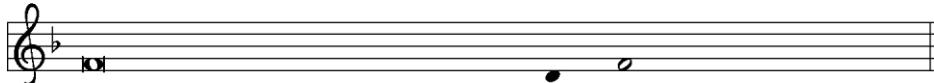
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



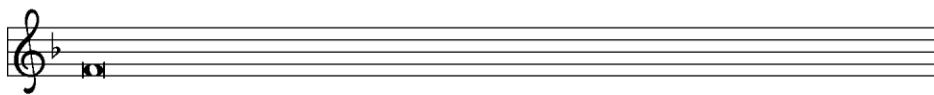
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



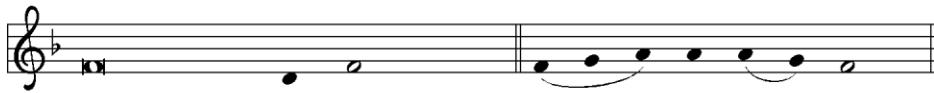
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



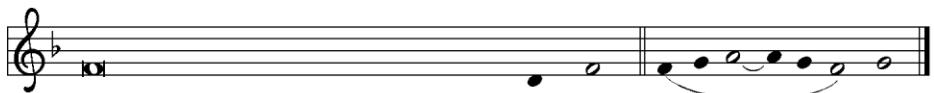
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia - ia, alleluia, alleluia - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ¶ O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- ¶ Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

Proverbs 25:6-7

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

After the reading:

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

RESPONSIVE READING:

The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)

Psalm 112

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;**
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,**
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands last forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;**
the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?”

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

After the reading:

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Musical notation for the Alleluia acclamation. The melody consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes in common time, starting with a quarter note. The lyrics are: Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

Musical notation for the Alleluia acclamation continuation. The melody continues with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are: words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.
- C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

After the reading:

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection

Pastor Jeff Carstens

HYMN OF THE DAY

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

"All Are Welcome"

Hymn 641

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

¶ Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.
For the church and its leaders, we pray. Uphold all deacons, pastors, and bishops who serve and teach your people. Awaken in your church a spirit of invitation that reaches ever outward. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the well-being of creation and its inhabitants, we pray. Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world, for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the nations and peoples of the world, we pray. Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice and equity for all. Defend and accompany all immigrants and refugees and all who are persecuted for their ethnic origin or religious beliefs. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray. Be present with those who live in isolation or fear, especially those who are incarcerated or detained. Comfort all who are sick or grieving. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For this congregation and its ministries, we pray. Prepare children, teachers, and youth ministry directors for a new year of learning. Embolden our witness to invite others to the table. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all the saints who confessed God's name, we give thanks. May we cling to the promise of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C 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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and common time. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each staff containing a portion of the text:

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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:

Holy, holy, holy 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

"This is My Father's World"

Hymn 824

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

PRAYER

A Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus.

- C** Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

¶ The God of peace,
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.
Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN



SENDING SONG

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

Hymn 534

DISMISSAL

Ⓐ Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
Ⓑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Liturgical Texts and Music

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