

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

But there is here [5th petition of the Lord's Prayer] attached a necessary, yet consolatory addition: As we forgive. He has promised that we shall be sure that everything is forgiven and pardoned, yet in the manner that we also forgive our neighbor.

For just as we daily sin much against God, and yet He forgives everything through grace, so we, too, must ever forgive our neighbor who does us injury, violence, and wrong, shows malice toward us, etc.

If, therefore, you do not forgive, then do not think that God forgives you; but if you forgive, you have this consolation and assurance, that you are forgiven in heaven, not on account of your forgiving, for God forgives freely and without condition, out of pure grace, because He has so promised, as the Gospel teaches, but in order that He may set this up for our confirmation and assurance for a sign alongside of the promise which accords with this prayer, Luke 6:37: Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven. Therefore Christ also repeats it soon after the Lord's Prayer, and says, Matt. 6:14: For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

- Martin Luther (16th Century) *Large Catechism III:3-96 On the Lords Prayer*



SAINT JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
LOVELL, WYOMING



www.stjohnslutherans.com

Cover Art: *The Parable of the Mote and the Beam*, Domenico Fetti. Italian, 1619. From the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

FORGIVE AND YOU WILL BE FORGIVEN

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

June 23, 2024



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A NOTE FOR OUR VISITORS CONCERNING WORSHIP AT SAINT JOHN'S

Our Congregation follows the pattern of worship set forth by ancient Christians. Though “the Mass” has undergone many changes over the past 2,000 years (especially during the time of the Lutheran Reformation), what remains at the heart is God’s desire to hear the prayers of His people and deliver His grace to them through His promised means. It is for this reason that we call our worship “The Divine Service,” not us serving the Divine, but the Divine serving us with His Word and Sacraments.

In response to God’s Grace, and with deference to the rich traditions we have inherited, we use both our voices and our bodies in worship of the Triune God, some of which may be unfamiliar or strange to you. For instance, some people will make the sign of the cross ✝ in remembrance of their Baptism; the **C**ongregation speaks or sings the bold portions of the liturgy. Finally, standing (attentive worship), sitting (attentive learning), and kneeling (sign of penitence and desire for grace) are symbolic actions in Christian worship that incorporate the body ^{Romans 12:1}. If you are unable to stand or kneel and remain seated throughout this Divine Service, know that your Spiritual worship is pleasing to God ^{John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 2:15}.

THE LORD’S SUPPER AT SAINT JOHN’S

Holy Scripture tells us that the earliest Christians gathered regularly for prayer, breaking of bread, and communion fellowship ^{Acts 2:42}. We continue this ancient tradition by gathering for prayers and “the breaking of the bread,” on the Lord’s Day. When we “do this in remembrance” of Jesus, we take seriously the words He said on the night He was betrayed; namely, that we are to eat and drink the bread and the wine, and in doing so eat and drink the very Body and Blood of Christ ^{Matthew 25:26-28}. So also, along with the earliest Christians, we confess that spiritual harm can befall those who commune with a congregation without understanding and agreeing with the beliefs of that gathering ^{1 Corinthians 11:17-29}. As a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we believe that all who commune at this altar are to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be instructed in the doctrine of the Small Catechism, and not be under pastoral care in a congregation of a different confession.

If you have any questions about what it means to be Lutheran, or would like to prayerfully explore entering into Communion Fellowship with St. John’s, please speak with me after worship so we can set up a time to meet together.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jacob Benson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT page 194

Please familiarize yourself with the communion statement on the inside cover of this bulletin. If you are not communing today but desire a blessing, you may approach the altar with your arms crossed across your chest.

The Body of Christ is received either on the tongue, or reverently on the palm of the hand.

When receiving the Blood of Christ, please grasp the bottom of the chalice and guide it to your lips.

If you desire to receive the blood of Christ from an individual cup instead of the Chalice, take an empty cup as you approach the altar and the Pastor will fill it from the cruet.

PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

754 Entrust Your Days and Burdens

713 From God Can Nothing Move Me

919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

NUNC DIMITTIS page 199

THANKSGIVING page 200

CLOSING HYMN 500 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid

your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED *page 191*

HYMN OF THE DAY 696 O God, My Faithful God *stanzas 2 and 5 are sung by the Choir*

SERMON

OFFERTORY & COLLECTION OF GIFTS *page 192*

OFFERING VOLUNTARY God's Holy Mountains *Sung by the Choir and the VBS Students*

Tune: "St. Louis," Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908. Public Domain.

¹ On Sinai's height, God gave the Law
And His own will was heard.
"One God alone, we shall adore
And praise His Holy Word."
But those these laws detesting
The wrath of God shall seize.
But those who hold them fast in faith
Eternal life receive.

² Elijah spoke against false gods
And laugh'd at them with scorn.
"How long halt ye between two
ways?
Repent and be reborn!"
The fire came down from heaven
But Baal was fast asleep.
God won the day, His foes dismayed,
They all began to weep.

³ Elijah, Moses, Christ were seen
Upon that holy hill
By Peter, James, and John who were
With terror ever filled.

They spoke of His departure,
That He dare not postpone.
When they arose, all they could see
Was Christ and Christ alone.

⁴ When Christ ascended Golgotha
His blood was shed for me.
Dear God, how could such deathly
blows
Reflect our Love for Thee?
He died and He was buried
But Lo, He rose again!
So that we can proclaim His Cross
And share good news with men.

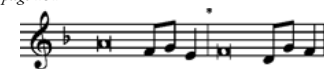
⁵ When Christ arose above the earth,
The Comforter He sent.
Who guides us into all truth's ways
That we might learn what's meant
By mountains, laws, and thunder,
By garments glowing bright:
So we by faith would walk and see,
God's perfect, glori'ous might.

Divine Service

OPENING HYMN 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *page 184*

INTROIT *Portions of Psalm 27 sung by the Choir*



The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to eat | up my flesh,

my adversaries and foes, it is they who stum- | ble and fall

Though an army encamp against me, my heart | shall not fear;

though war arise against me, yet I will be | confident.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days | of my life.

For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of | trouble;

He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high up- |
on a rock.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son

and to the | Holy Ghost.

As it was in the be- | ginning,

is now and ever shall be, world without end. | Amen.

KYRIE *page 186*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *page 187*

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P O Lord, grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your governance that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Genesis 50:15-21*

In those days, ¹⁵ Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, and they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression

of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.” And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY *CONFITEBOR TIBI DOMINE IN TOTO CORDE MEO QUONIAM AUDISTI*

Psalm 138

I give thanks, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I | sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your
steadfast love and your | faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things your name | and your word.
On the day I called, you | answered me;
my strength of soul | you increased.
All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, | O LORD,
for they have heard the words | of your mouth,
and they shall sing of the ways | of the LORD,
for great is the glory | of the LORD.
For though the LORD is high, he regards the | lowly,
but the haughty he knows | from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you pre- | serve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right
hand de- | livers me.
The Lord will fulfill his pur- | pose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work | of
your hands.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the | Holy Ghost.
As it was in the be- | ginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end. | Amen.

EPISTLE *Romans 12:14-21*

Brethren, ¹⁴ bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

The congregation sings the FIRST ALLELUIA on page 190 before and after the VERSE

VERSE *Portions of Psalms 79 and 9*

Atone for our sins, for Your | name’s sake!
Why should the nations say, “Where | is their God?”
Help us, O God of our sal- | vation,
for the glory of Your name de- | liver us
You have sat on the throne, giving righteous | judgment.
The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of |
trouble.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 6:37-42*

P The * Holy Gospel * according to * Saint Luke, the sixth Chapter
C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time, Jesus stood on a level place, lifted His eyes on His disciples and said: ³⁷ “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

³⁹ He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the speck that is in