



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 14th Sunday After Pentecost

August 25, 2024

10:30 Service of the Word

Our summer worship series on Old Testament poetry wraps up today with the Song of Solomon. This is a love poem, pure and simple. But why is it in the Bible? How are we to interpret it? And how are we to incorporate it into our lives? These are all questions that we'll look at. We won't be getting a lot of definite answers though!

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is shown in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sins.
A moment of silence for reflection.

P: God our provider,

C: help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world
in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

P: Beloved people of God,
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn Will You Let Me Be Your Servant
(For music see Hymn 659 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen the journey through.
5. Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953. Music: Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928. Text and music copyright 1977 Scripture in Son, admin. Integrity Music

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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.

Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Song of Solomon 2

I am a rose of Sharon,
a lily of the valleys.

²As a lily among brambles,
so is my love among maidens.

³As an apple tree among the trees of the wood,
so is my beloved among young men.

With great delight I sat in his shadow,
and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

⁴He brought me to the banqueting house,
and his intention toward me was love.

⁵Sustain me with raisins,
refresh me with apples;
for I am faint with love.

⁶O that his left hand were under my head,
and that his right hand embraced me!

⁷I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem,
by the gazelles or the wild does:

do not stir up or awaken love
until it is ready!

⁸The voice of my beloved!

Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

⁹My beloved is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

Look, there he stands
behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows,

looking through the lattice.

¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me:

“Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away;

¹¹for now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone.

¹²The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

¹⁴O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the covert of the cliff,

let me see your face,
let me hear your voice;

for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.

¹⁵Catch us the foxes,
the little foxes,

that ruin the vineyards—
for our vineyards are in blossom.”

¹⁶My beloved is mine and I am his;
he pastures his flock among the lilies.

¹⁷Until the day breathes
and the shadows flee,

turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle
or a young stag on the cleft mountains.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

[Paul writes] ¹⁶Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He

catches the wise in their craftiness,”²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

²¹So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, ²³and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 11:13)

C: Alleluia. How much more the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Luke 11:9-13

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said]“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

(For music turn to Hymn 631 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav’n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,**

**pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

- 2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.**
- 3. Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**
- 4. Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: 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.**

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *(Jude 20)*

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;
behold, everything has become new!** *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.**

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

✠ **THANKSGIVING** ✠

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God,

**C: ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with
blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad
and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in
need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

† **SENDING** †

Blessing

P: The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Praise and Thanksgiving

(For music turn to Hymn 689 in the Red Hymnal)

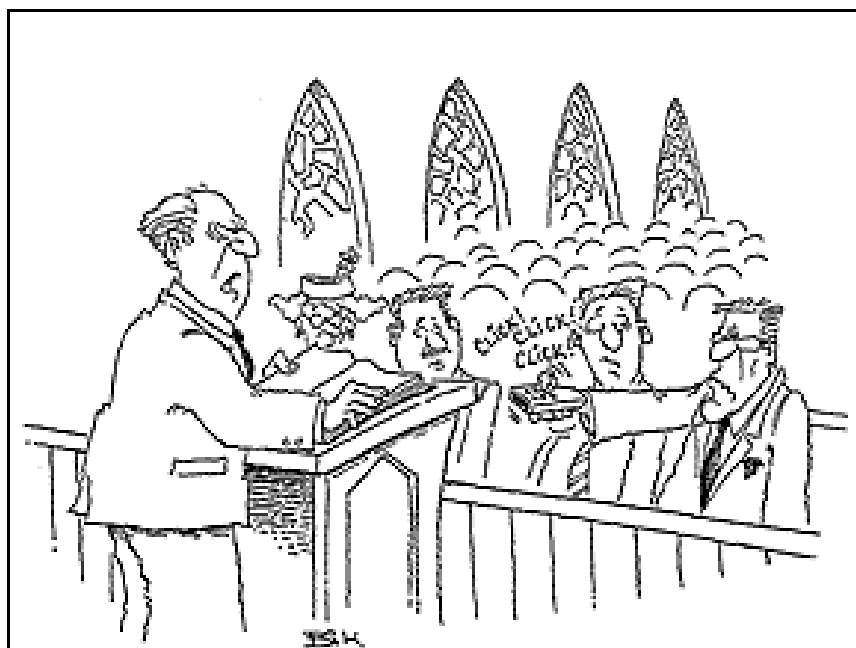
- 1. Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, created good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**
- 2. God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.**
- 3. Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.**
- 4. Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
When you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt. Copyright, Oxford University Press. Music: Gaelic tune; arr. copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



"I'm sorry, Brother Markley, but I'm
already fast-forwarding as fast as I can!"

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers

Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Counters Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, September 1

Greeters and Ushers Phyllis Henderson
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Altar Care Linn Griffio
Communion Assistant Greg Zuege
Counters Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour

Scripture readings from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible* copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States. Psalm from *The Psalter* copyright 1994, Liturgical Training Publications. Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2024* copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress.

St. John's Lutheran Church
888 County Road 9, Victor, NY 14564
stjohnsvictor.com (585) 924-5192
The Rev. Jonathan Deibler, Pastor
William Shi, Pianist