

*Community  
Labor Day Weekend  
Worship Service*



*Sunday, September 4, 2022  
10:00 a.m.*

# St. John Lutheran Church

300 W Maple Rd, Linthicum, MD 21090-2434 | info@sjlc.org | (410) 859-0020

**W**elcome and thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We're glad God has brought you here to celebrate God's never-failing love, forgiveness of sins, reconciliation of relationships, and hope for tomorrow. We hope each and every person feels welcome here. We trust that our time together will fill you with a sense of joy and hope. May God's grace and peace be with you.

**Order of Service:** This bulletin will guide you through our worship service. Please note that congregation responses are printed in **bold**. Also, please feel free to sit at any time during the worship service.

**Thank-Offering:** As a spiritual discipline, we are given an opportunity to worship by returning to the Lord a portion of our abundance that comes from God. For those wishing to respond to God's grace with a financial Thank-Offering, a "wooden church" box is located in the back of the worship space or for those who wish to contribute electronically, hover your mobile device over the QR Code and you will be directed to our giving page.



## **Participating this morning's worship service:**

<b>Preacher:</b>	<i>The Rev. Alejandro Mejía, Delaware Maryland Synod, ELCA</i>
<b>Presider:</b>	<i>The Rev. Karen Pugatch</i>
<b>Musicians:</b>	<i>Alina Antonenko &amp; Jan Brennan</i>
<b>Bass:</b>	<i>Bob Hudgins</i>
<b>Flute:</b>	<i>Rachel Klingensmith</i>
<b>Guitarist:</b>	<i>Kevin Barret</i>
<b>Communion Assistants:</b>	<i>Kathy Braspenickx, Laura Lee Provonche, Susan Ingrassia, Jim Morris</i>
<b>Online Streaming:</b>	<i>Dan Lightner</i>
<b>Sound Board:</b>	<i>Frank Link</i>
<b>CrosSing Praise Band:</b>	<i>Terri Kellogg, Carroll Paul, Sandy Link, Fred Haab, Mary Kay Grantland, Christina Blevins, Rachel Klingensmith</i>
<b>Rejoice Fellowship Choir:</b>	<i>Anne Gordon, Dee Thomas, Louise Houck, Lorraine Cooney, Alyce Cohen, Gale Krol, David Rinker, Shirley Parulis, Dave Hulteng, Steve Schenk</i>
<b>Cantor:</b>	<i>Tyler Ridenour</i>
<b>Acolyte:</b>	<i>Chase Reinhardt</i>
<b>Reader:</b>	<i>Penny Courtney</i>

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# GATHER

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

*We are invited to stand in body or spirit, as able.*

## GATHERING SONGS

*Come Now Is the Time to Worship*

### **Chorus**

**Come now is the time to worship  
Come now is the time to give your heart  
Come just as you are to worship  
Come just as you are before your God  
Come**

### **Verse 2**

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives  
Willingly our knees will bow  
With all our heart soul mind and strength  
We gladly choose You now **Chorus**

### **Verse 1**

One day every tongue  
Will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now

### **Ending**

Come come just as you are come come

### **Chorus**

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*We are invited to be seated.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*Psalm 118:24*

*We are invited to stand in body or spirit, as able.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who delight in the Word of God.

**They are like trees planted by streams of water, and they will flourish.**

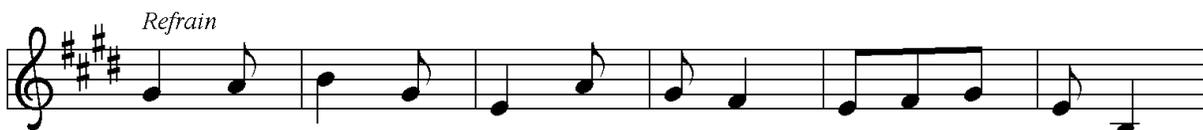
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# SONG OF PRAISE

*Now the Feast and Celebration*

*Refrain*



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



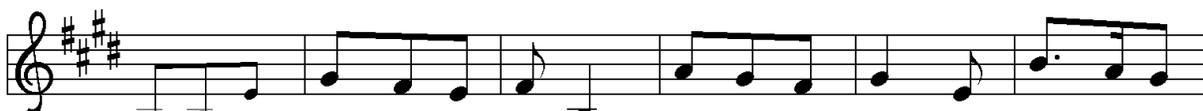
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

## GATHERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Extravagant God, you pour out blessings upon us and lead us on the path of true life. Help us to choose your way again and again, that we might revel in your love and reflect it to all we meet. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

*We are invited to be seated.*

# WORD

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

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

A reading from the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of Deuteronomy.

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death, and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 1

*We are invited to join in praying the following Psalm responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

*We are invited to stand in body or spirit, as able.*

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

## **GOSPEL READING**

*Luke 14:25-33*

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We are invited to be seated.*

## **MESSAGE**

*The Rev. Alejandro Mejía, Delaware Maryland Synod, ELCA*

*We are invited to stand in body or spirit as able.*



SONG OF RESPONSE

*Will You Come and Follow Me*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Apostles' Creed*

We are invited to join our voices together in confessing our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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 THE PEOPLE**

*As we center ourselves in prayer we are invited to sing the refrain "All That We Have." We will repeat 1x to begin and then 1x following each petition. We are invited to be in the posture of prayer.*

**All that we have and all that we offer  
comes from a heart both frightened and free.  
Take what we bring now and give what we need,  
all done in your name.**

## **SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

*Matthew 5:23-24*

*In the gospels Jesus tells us that if we are about to approach the altar and remember that a brother or sister has something against us, we are to first seek to be reconciled. The greeting of peace is symbolic of that act of seeking reconciliation. We share the peace of Christ with a kiss, an embrace, or a handshake. Please be respectful of personal space and those who do not wish to participate in this symbolic act.*

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*After sharing Christ's peace, we are then invited to be seated.*

# MEAL

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

## INVITATION TO THE THANK-OFFERING

Jesus says if we would learn from him, we must follow him. Large crowds listened to Jesus, but they turned away when they realized the cost. Jesus said, “None of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all of your possessions.” Therefore, be generous with the fruit of your life and labor on behalf of the good we are called to do for Christ.

*Thank-Offering: As a spiritual discipline, we are given an opportunity to worship by returning to the Lord a portion of our abundance that comes from God. For those wishing to respond to God’s grace with a financial Thank-Offering, a “wooden church” box is located in the back of the worship space or for those who wish to contribute electronically, hover your mobile device over the QR Code and you will be directed to our giving page.*



## THANK-OFFERING SONG

*The Prayer  
by David Foster*

*Combined Musical Artists from  
St John Lutheran, St Christopher’s Episcopal and Rejoice Fellowship Congregations*

*We are invited to stand in body or spirit as able.*

## THANK-OFFERING PRAYER

We give you thanks this day for the goodness and love that you have shown to us in Christ and pray your blessing upon these gifts: may they build your love in the world, to the honor of your name.

**Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

In penitence and in faith, let us confess our sin to the One who waits to pour out mercy upon us.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we fail to put our trust in you completely. Instead, we calculate our gains and losses, hoarding the things that do not lead to abundant life. Forgive us, and help us to treasure only you, that we may follow you faithfully and discover the blessings only you can give. Amen.**

## **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Beloved, your sins are forgiven. Therefore be at peace to follow the good road, for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous. 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. Now, as God's own forgiven people, go to bring peace, forgiveness, and new life to the world in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **BLESSING OF HOLY COMMUNION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

*We are invited to be seated.*

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

*All are invited to receive the gifts of God in Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited forward for a blessing. Once communion assistants are in place, please come forward via the center aisle. A minister will first serve you Christ's body (gluten-free wafers are available upon request). Please hold out your hands, palms up, to receive The Bread of Life. Then move to the side towards the next minister, pick up a small glass from the bottom, turn it over and hold it out to receive Christ's Blood from the Cup of Everlasting Life (please indicate if you prefer grape juice). Once you have received the gifts of God please return via the side aisles for additional personal prayers, reflections and singing. There will be a basket to receive your empty glass at the side aisles. When serving the bread and wine, the ministers will say "The body of Christ, given for you" and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." You are then invited to respond to each by saying "Amen" or "Thanks be to God." If you would like the meal to be brought to you where you are seated, please indicate so and we will be honored to bring The Lord's Supper to you.*

### **COMMUNION IS SERVED**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Thanks be to God.**

*As the community receives Christ in bread and wine, we are invited to pray and/or join our voices in the following songs.*

COMMUNION SONGS

*How Firm a Foundation*



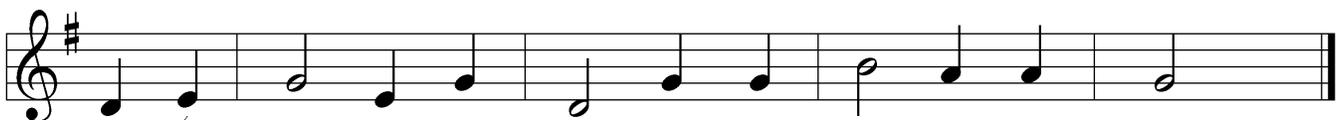
1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_  
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*



when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer - cy on me. \_\_\_\_\_



3 Let us praise God. to - geth-er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_



let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*



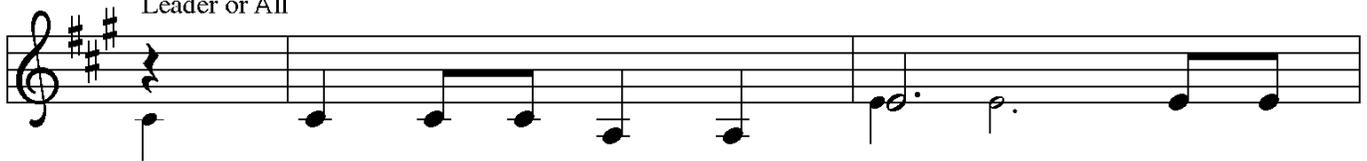
when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer - cy on me. \_\_\_\_\_

*I Am the Bread of Life*

Leader or All



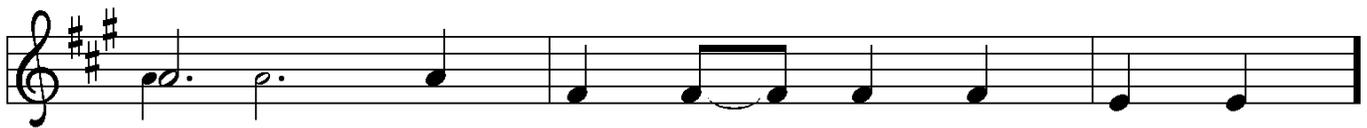
1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
 3 "Un - less . . . . . you . . . . . eat of the  
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . . . .  
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . . . I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -  
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . . . and if you  
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . . . and . . .  
 I . . . . . am the life. . . . . If you be -  
 you . . . . . are the Christ, . . . . . the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
 eat . . . . . of this bread, you shall . . live for -  
 drink . . . . . of his blood, and drink . . . . . of his  
 lieve . . . . . in . . . . . me, e - ven . . though you  
 Son . . . . . of . . . . . God, who . . . . . have . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
 ev - er, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
 die, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 come in - to . . . . . the . . . . . world. . . . .

*Refrain*  
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are: "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day." The first system covers the first two phrases, and the second system covers the third phrase. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with clear phrasing.

*Once all have received the Bread of Heaven and Cup of Salvation, we are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

### **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace. **Amen.**

## **SEND**

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

### **COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

Your chains are broken; your prison doors are open. Go forth, then, with joy to live as one with the God who sends you out. Let the hope that is in you, free you daily that through you, the Holy Spirit may free others.

Now may the power that is in Christ Jesus, the strength of the Holy Spirit to baptize and save, and the fierce love of God, the Creator, keep you in grace and truth. May Christ love incarnate – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – bless and guide you this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

*Thine Is the Glory*

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

*Refrain*

where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**