

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254

309-949-2516

October 4, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: 906 O Day of Rest and Gladness



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
2 This day at earth's cre - a - tion The light first had its birth;
3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, His Ho - ly Scrip - ture hear;
△ 4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, We walk the pil - grim way,



O balm of care and sad - ness, Most beau - ti - ful, most bright;
This day for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
His liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, Through bread and wine made near.
At length our rest at - tain - ing, Our end - less Sab - bath day.



This day the high and low - ly, Through a - ges joined to bless,
This day our Lord vic - to - rious The Spir - it sent from heav'n,
We jour - ney on, be - liev - ing, Re - newed with heav'n - ly might,
We sing to Thee our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," The tri - une God con - fess.
And thus this day most glo - rious A three - fold light was giv'n.
From grace more grace re - ceiv - ing, On this blest day of light.
The Church her voice up - rais - es To Thee, blest Three in One.

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Text (sts. 1-2) and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit (Psalm 118:22-24; antiphon: v. 1)

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

**This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to

the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7, on back of bulletin

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!**

Epistle

Philippians 3:4b-14, on back of bulletin

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33-46, on back of bulletin

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory be to You, O Lord.

After the reading

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 544 O Love, How Deep



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
Of high - er or of low - er place,
His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,



That God, the Son of God, should take
But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
For us temp - ta - tion and sharp He knew;
By words and signs and ac - tions thus



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
And to this world Him - self He came.
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

△ 7 All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

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Sermon

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Merciful Lord, You have planted us as Your own vineyard, that we might bear good fruit for Your glory. Grant to us grace, that we may be faithful and show forth in our lives the good works that glorify You and serve Your purpose. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious Father, embolden us by Your Spirit, that we may give witness to Your mighty acts. Bless the missionaries who bring the Gospel to people who have not heard, and raise up faithful pastors who will nurture the congregations in their care with Your Word and Sacraments. Give us ears willing to hear, minds willing to be instructed and hearts willing to trust You in all things. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy Lord, rescue us from all enemies of Your Church, and bless us with church leaders whose voices will not waver in the face of threat. Bless Matthew, president of the Synod; Mark, our district president; Robert, our circuit visitor; and all pastors. Inspire men and women to go into church-work vocations, and bless those preparing for church work, especially Andrew who is studying at the seminary. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Mighty Lord, give to the nations both the desire for and the blessing of peace. Thwart the actions of terrorists and those who would oppress with the power of fear. Bless Donald, our president; Jay, our governor; and all who pass, enforce and judge our laws. Protect those who serve in our military and as first responders and help them to serve honorably. Spare us from disease and fear. Deliver the poor from want, and help us to provide jobs and worthy employment for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Everlasting Father, guide husbands and wives to love and forgive each other and strengthen them in their life together. Bless the homes in which Your people dwell. Help parents to be faithful examples for their children, and give room in their hearts and homes so that orphans may know the joy of a place and a home to call their own. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of love, we thank You for the healing that You have given to Chuck and ask that You would continue to uphold Him in Your mercy. Deliver the sick from their illnesses, give relief to the suffering, help the troubled to know peace of mind, and be with those in their final days. Guide all health care professionals to serve those in need, and give patience to those who must bear with their infirmities, disabilities and infertility. Hear us especially for Claris, Joseph, Pam, Paula, Jim and Shirley, Don, John, Bob, Betty, Dick, Arlyn, Derek, Harley, Lillian, Lynne, Clinton's Family, Crystal, Jodi, Mike,

Virginia, Jim, John, Marilyn, Casey, Jim, Drew, Kathleen, Kelly, Carolyn, Carolyn, and Karen. Be with the grieving, especially the family and friends of Mike Rowlands, that they would find comfort and hope in the promise of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, prepare our hearts to receive the Lord's body and blood in this Holy Supper, that we may be strengthened in faith, renewed in love and nurtured in faith by our communion. Give to us unity of faith and harmony in our life together. Bring us at last with the saints who have gone before, that we may attain everlasting life and dwell in Your presence forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, give us a willing spirit, that we may serve You with all that we have and all that we are. Help us to be faithful and fruitful in the godly use of Your resources and gifts, that we may use them in accord with Your will and for Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed Lord, keep us from resentful hearts that would begrudge Your mercy or live selfishly for ourselves and teach us to live for You the life that You have given us, treasuring in our hearts all that is good and wise and seeking after these things. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Hear us, O Lord, and give answer to the prayers of Your people prayed in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom with the Father and the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, forevermore.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Concluding Collect for the Holy Spirit

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, heavenly Father, You gave Your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification. By Your Holy Spirit grant us newness of life that through the power of Christ's resurrection we may dwell with Him forever; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

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

C **Amen.**

At this time the live streaming of the service will end. If anyone does not feel comfortable receiving the Lord's Supper at this time they are welcome to depart. The worship concludes with the Service of the Sacrament.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Words of Institution

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Agnus Dei

G Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in

peace.

G Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

Today we receive the gift of Holy Communion. Communion is an expression of faith and agreement. If you're our guest this morning, we don't want to place you in a position of agreement with our beliefs before you've had opportunity to study them. Therefore, if you're not a member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to speak with our pastor about this special opportunity, and request that you not partake of the Communion today. Thank you.

Acknowledgements

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Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2020

Sermon Text: Matthew 21:33-46 (Gospel)

Other Texts: Isaiah 5:1-7 (Old Testament Reading); Philippians 3:4b-14 (Epistle)

“The Rejected Stone has become the Cornerstone”

Dearest saints, the vast riches of heavenly grace, mercy, and peace be yours from God the Father through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Lord Christ has just spoken another parable, a scathing one in which declares how the Jewish religious authorities, as a whole, rejected and persecuted the prophets right up to John the Baptist and, finally, would go so far as to kill God’s only-begotten Son. “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.”ⁱ And Jesus’ words were fulfilled three days later when those same religious leaders got the Roman governor, Pontus Pilate, to crucify Jesus on Mount Calvary, which is outside of Jerusalem, as it is written in the book of Hebrews, “So Jesus also suffered outside the gate.”ⁱⁱ

Of great importance, Jesus gets the Jewish pilgrims to rightly, though perhaps unknowingly, condemn their own leaders, “When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”ⁱⁱⁱ Hearing that sentence of “Guilty,” He then says to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”^{iv}

“The stone that the builders *rejected*.” These words of Scripture come from Psalm 118 so, of course, they had read them! And not just the religious leaders, but the crowds as well. For Psalms 113-118 are known as the *Hallel* psalms, which means “praise” in Hebrew. (*Halleluia* means “Praise Yahweh” (the LORD)). These six psalms were sung during the annual Passover celebration,^v the very event that would be celebrated that coming Thursday, the very reason the pilgrims were in Jerusalem. Even more, the crowds had quoted another part of Psalm 118 two days earlier on Sunday when they cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”^{vi} So yes, not only had they had read the psalm, they had sung the psalm every year at least, and they knew that, ultimately, the psalm referred to their deliverance by the Messiah.

Yet, what was impossible for them to accept, both the religious leaders and the people, was how the Messiah would rescue them. That He would come not in glory, power, and military victory to redeem them from their earthly enemies, but instead in humility, in utter weakness, even unto being executed by those who had the earthly power. Yet, that very truth was revealed in the

Messianic psalm they had sung, the words Jesus now quotes. For the stone refers to the Messiah, and the stone is *rejected* by the builders, just as the owner's son was rejected and killed in the parable, just as Jesus, the only Son from heaven, was rejected and crucified. Yes, the builders, the religious leaders who were to recognize the Messiah and so lead the people to Him instead rejected Him, the very One in whom was their hope, as they themselves, and the people whom they led astray, would soon yell out, "Crucify him!"^{vii}

But that is not the end of the story. "The stone that the builders rejected *has become the cornerstone*; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes." The rejected stone becomes the head of the corner, the very foundation of the kingdom of God. And so St. Paul proclaims, "But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."^{viii} We preach Christ crucified because the crucified Christ is not dead, but very alive, risen and ascended to the heavenly glory from whence He came. This is *the Lord's* doing, for *He* made the rejected stone into the corner stone by raising Christ Jesus from the dead.^{ix}

So it is that Jesus, being the cornerstone, governs every angle of the foundation and the building built upon it, that is, the Christian Church which is built upon the new and greater covenant, the new testament in His blood shed for sinners. And so there is judgment upon those who reject Him, the judgment which the crowds correctly confessed to be righteous and just.

First, there is the judgment upon the religious leaders and, ultimately, the nation they led, "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits." The kingdom *is* taken away from the religious leaders, the Sanhedrin with its Sadducees and Pharisees, and given to the blessed apostles whom the Lord specifically chose to build up His Church. Thus St. Paul writes that believers are "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord."^x So also, the kingdom is taken away from the Jewish nation who, by their rejection of the Messiah, lose the special place that they had as the Gentiles begin to fill the Church through the missionary work of the apostles, their assistants, and those throughout the centuries. And so a new people who produces the fruits of repentance and righteousness is formed, being composed of each and every Jew and Gentile who believe in Christ Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and so receive new life in the Holy Spirit.

Second is the judgment that will fall upon the individual, whether Jew or Gentile, whether past, present, or someone yet to be born, all who reject and so set themselves against this cornerstone, Christ Jesus crucified, risen, and ascended to God's right hand, "And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." The aged Simeon prophesied when holding the infant Jesus, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed."^{xi} But that opposition is ultimately utterly useless and ends in destruction. For it makes no difference if one falls upon the stone or has the stone fall upon him, it is not the stone that is damaged! So whether a person's unbelief is made obvious through open and vile sins, or is well-hidden underneath an outward shiny veneer of morality, decency, dutifulness, and friendliness, either way the lack of faith is a rejecting of Christ which leads to being eternally crushed under His wrathful judgment.

Hearing this, let us then first repent of both our obvious sins as well as our own shiny veneer of works behind which we hide and, worse, put our trust in. For as we heard last week, we are saved by God's grace alone, and grace is completely undeserved. St. Paul writes, "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace."^{xii} Of course, it is very true that all who have been saved by grace will, with the help of the Holy Spirit, work to change their sinful ways and grow in holiness and good works. But, because of our corrupted nature and Satan's lies, it is equally true that the minute such works start coming forth we make too much of them, believing them to be earning *something* from God, and so we begin to put our trust not only in Christ, but in our new life as well. May both our desire for sin as well as our sinful mistrust in our works be broken in sincere repentance!

But in the middle of these words of judgment, let us grow in hope that is also offered by the assurance that God's will cannot be undone no matter what this sinful world of unbelievers does. For just as Joseph's brothers meant terrible evil to him by selling him into slavery, yet God used it for great good, even saving those same brothers' lives,^{xiii} so truly did the Jewish rulers mean evil towards Jesus when they plotted and enacted His death, yet God used it for the greatest good, the redemption of sinful mankind, even those who worked the evil against Him!

Is it not a great comfort to know that though the powers of earth and hell itself are arrayed against the Church, God's people, as pictured in Revelation by the dragon and the two beasts, yet all their work will come to naught. Of course, it will not seem like that to us in the midst of the war here on earth, we Christians who have a bullseye on us. But God's Word reveals that all of their might will finally be shown as empty, for the war was already lost for them when God made the rejected stone the cornerstone, that is, when Christ died and rose again. So St. Peter also uses the stone imagery not only of Christ, but of us, His people in Christ.

As you come to [Christ Jesus], a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.^{xiv}

Dear Christians, each of you are a living stone of the spiritual house, God's holy temple. This evil world and its ruler will lash at you and smash upon you in body and soul, physically, mentally, emotionally, and yes, *it will* hurt, sometimes terribly. Eventually, you will die. Yet, through faith in Christ to whom you were united in your baptism, who feeds you His very body and blood, you too are a stone that not only can, but *will* weather the evils, trials, and calamities of this life. Jesus has been made the cornerstone by His resurrection and you will rise to eternal life in Him! Truly all this is marvelous in our sight, seeing by faith now and our eyes in glory!

Friends in Christ, do not reject the cornerstone, neither by falling into sin, nor by sinful confidence in your righteousness or works, nor by giving up in the midst of this life when you are despised and rejected and so suffer as a Christian. For you do such in imitation of your Savior during His time on earth, who suffered and died, so that your suffering has purpose, yes, saving value, as He brings you to the salvation which He, your cornerstone, won for you. Amen!

ⁱ Matthew 21:38-39. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

ⁱⁱ Hebrews 13:12.

ⁱⁱⁱ Matthew 21:40-41. Verse 45 informs us that the religious leaders perceived that they were the primary target of Jesus' parable. Therefore, it is unlikely that they were the ones who yelled out this answer. It is far more likely that the Passover pilgrim crowds did such as they were normally already experiencing a religious zeal at this time and, now, even more on this occasion as they had declared Jesus to be the Messiah earlier that week on Palm Sunday.

^{iv} Matthew 21:42-44.

^v This is why they are sometimes referred to as the *Egyptian Hallel*, since they used in the Passover which commemorated and celebrated the exodus from Egypt.

^{vi} Mark 11:9; see Psalm 118:25, 26. The Hebrew word *Hosanna* means, "Save us!"

^{vii} See Mark 15:13-15.

^{viii} 1 Corinthians 1:23-24.

^{ix} E.g. Acts 2:32.

^x Ephesians 2:20-21.

^{xi} Luke 2:34.

^{xii} Romans 11:6.

^{xiii} Genesis 50:20.

^{xiv} 1 Peter 2:4-5.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

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HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Rev. Timothy Nerud

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Pastor

+In God's Grace—In God's Service+

Elder: Brad Gehn
Videographer: Joel Werling
Ushers: Preston Smith Family
Organist: Carmen Pamprin

Today's Readings: Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7
Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14
Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

WE PRAY: Jesus Christ, Lord of heaven and earth, who reigns in splendor in the kingdom of heaven, hold the vision of glory every before us; and as we press on toward it, trusting in Your faithfulness, help us to match our lives to the level of our faith, until by Your grace we see You; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME BACK TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours **(Monday, Pastor's day off)**
(Tuesday) 9 am—12 pm
(Thursday) 9 am—12 pm & 1 pm—4 pm
(Wednesday & Friday) please call ahead.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—10 Adult Bible Class—23 Worship—59

LIVE STREAMED SERVICES are available on St. John's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and posted on Monday on the church website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org found under the 'Sermon' tab and

WEEKLY OFFERING

Offering \$2,005.00
Weekly income needed per 2020 Budget \$4,011.98

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Today 8:45 am SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
10:00 am Divine Worship/Communion
Wednesday 5:00 pm Confirmation
Next Sunday 8:45 am SS/Adult w/Youth Bible Study
10:00 am Divine Worship—LWML Sunday

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and seek him in his temple. Psalm 27:4

MATTHEW 21:43 – “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.” The Pharisees were not bearing fruit. They were faithful to the letter of the Law in keeping the Sabbath, tithing, and all the rest, but they neglected the heart of God's will. The grace of God belongs at the center. Our giving and all our other good works flow forth from receiving God's grace and living in that grace on a daily basis.

LWML SUNDAY—Next Sunday we will celebrate the mission work of many ladies within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. You can be a part of this work too, no matter if you are man or woman, boy or girl. Save your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and bills. Place them in the large 'Mite box' and they will be sent to support the many mission projects. *You are welcome to take your own individual Mite Box, fill it up and empty it in the big box each month.*

MISSION GRANT STORY—LWML Sunday is celebrated each fall. Through your mite offerings, LWML supports mission work all around the world. One of these biennium's mission grants is \$100,000 to Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP). This grant allows LAMP to hire more missionary pilots and train more volunteers so that people in remote communities in northern Canada and Alaska will receive a Christian education and the witness of the Gospel. See what your mite donation is doing in our complete list of mission grants on the LWML website under the "Missions" tab at www.lwml.org. **Look for the LWML Mite Box in the Narthex to contribute.**

JOIN OUR CELEBRATION—The members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Milan IL, invite you to the Installation Service for their new pastor, Rev. Kurt Larson, on Sunday, October 11 beginning at 3 pm. This service will

take place outside in the church parking lot following appropriate COVID-19 precautions. Following the service will be a time of fellowship and a dinner with a catered box lunch. All attending the dinner are asked to RSVP by Tuesday, October 6 by calling the church office (309-787-4295 or email: stmatkarenb@gmail.com).

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember God's gift of Baptism as you pray:

MISSION—*Thank God for His gifts of Word and Sacrament*, that through these means God freely gives His grace to sinners by faith. *Thank God for the gift of Baptism*, that His Word combines with the water to deliver forgiveness and eternal life joining us to Christ's death and resurrection.

ST. JOHN'S—**Mrs. Linda Pinegar**—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Linda and ask your blessing on her.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:

Drew Schillinger	Jim Rahn	Carolyn Wildermuth
Arlyn Helke	Bob Esterlein	Lynne Johnson
Derek Helke	Lillian Hock	Jim/Shirley Dahl
Carolyn Werner	Betty Firch	John Erdman
Paula Chapa	John Neumann	

Andrew Hill, Sarah, John, Daniel (2019/2020 Seminary Student)

Don Eggers (son of a friend of Marilyn Woods)

Mike Miller (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)

Jon & Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)

Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former St John Laborer For Christ)

Pam Bennett (friend of Dan/Roselyn Maeltzer)

Karen Wright (wife of Pastor Gary Wright)

Virginia Miller (mother of Jamie Werling)

Casey Powers (husband of Lisa (Bear) Powers)

Kelly Wechsler (cousin of Bob Wechsler)

Kathleen VanDeRostyne (friend of Bob & Sherry Wechsler)

Joseph Baamonde (Friend of Paula Mooney)

Clinton Kane Family (son of Sandy Kane)

Jim Neumann (father-in-law of Brad Gehn's son)

Harley Hepner (cousin of Sarah Hock)

Claris Anderson (mother of Sarah Hock)

Dick Fornasiere (brother-in-law of Sherry Wechsler)

Crystal Krause (daughter of neighbor of Linda Aper)

The Family of Mike Rowlands (friend of Arlyn/Marcia Helke)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy & Richard Davila (daughter & son-in-law of Dale & Linda Aper)
Luke & Nicole Thompson (son & daughter-in-law of John & Kindra Thompson)
Ken Willeford (husband of Alicia Willeford)
Tyler Hynes (nephew of Mark Ague)
Karl Flynn (son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul Flynn)
Zachary & Tiffany Gardner (nephew & wife of Bob & Lois Esterlein)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“Whenever I read Scripture that talks about how much God loves each of us, that He has created us, and that He wants us to share His love, I am always struck by the lack of qualifiers. I do not see where God makes distinctions about who He loves and calls into His family. He loves and calls all—each and every one of us.” *Mona Fuerstenau, Bethesda Lutheran Communities – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

**G.R.I.T
RUN**

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 24,
2020**

Register for this one-of-a-kind 5K trail run at cilca.org/homecoming

