

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23 | 8:30 & 10:00 AM

Monday, August 24 | 6:30 PM

St. Johns
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL



WELCOME AND INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

"Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses"

LSB 667, vv. 1, 4-6

Saints, see the cloud of witnesses surround us;
Their lives of faith encourage and astound us.
Hear how the Master praised their faith so fervent:
"Well done, My servant!"

Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suffered,
He faced the cross, His sinless life He offered;
He scorned the shame, He died, our death enduring,
Our hope securing.

Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending,
On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending;
Not knowing where we go, but that You lead us—
With grace precede us.

You, Jesus, You alone deserve all glory!
Our lives unfold, embraced within Your story;
Past, present, future—You, the same forever—
You fail us never!

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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.

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.

Amen.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in,
Oh, His love for me.
Oh, His love for me.

Chorus

Who the Son sets free,
Oh is free indeed.
I'm a child of God,
Yes I am.
In my Father's house
There's a place for me.
I'm a child of God,
Yes, I am.

"Who You Say I Am"

Free at last He has ransomed me,
His grace runs deep.
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me.
Yes, He died for me. **Chorus**

I am chosen, not forsaken.
I am who You say I am.
You are for me, not against me.
I am who You say I am. **Sing 2x**

I am who You say I am. **Chorus**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PSALMODY

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 12:1-2

Pew Bible Page 1008

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+ BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

School Principal, Kendra Gilmore

PRAYER FOR ALL LEARNERS AND TEACHERS

Teachers and staff from all schools are asked to stand to receive a bag tag and remain standing for prayer.

God of all knowledge and wisdom, these students, teachers, and staff remind us that a new school year is about to begin.

We pray Your blessing on all students, young and old, as they begin a new year.

Help them to discover and develop the gifts You have given them.

As they grow in knowledge, help them to also grow in kindness, compassion, and faith.

We ask Your blessing on parents, teachers, school personnel, and all who care for these students.

Strengthen them to surround these students with encouragement, support, love, and prayers.

Gracious Savior, through Your Word, dwelling richly within us, help us to stay connected to You.

Remind us that apart from You, we can do nothing.

Whatever we do, in word and deed, may it all be done in the name of Jesus.

So that we may be better equipped to be Your servants in and to the world.

We pray all this in Jesus' name,

Amen.

HYMN

“Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

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HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

Pew Bible Page 822

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON SONG

“By Faith”

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design,
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts,
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign. **Chorus**

Chorus

We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In ev'ry corner of the earth. **Chorus**

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name. **Chorus**

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+ Sermon Notes +**APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, we are encouraged by Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Rahab, Gideon, Sampson, and others to pray in faith for the church, our world, and our neighbors according to their needs.

Lord God, send Your Holy Spirit on all church leaders, all pastors, teachers, and servants of Your Church. Help us to be of aid and encouragement to them that they may extend the blessings of Your kingdom to all. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give patience and wisdom to parents that they may joyfully and faithfully teach their children to walk in Your ways. As parents entrust their children to teachers and schools, provide adults who stay connected to You through Your Word to guide these children. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give Your grace to the sick and the suffering, those struggling with mental illness, the grieving, and to the dying... Give them faith and hope in Your everlasting grace and grant them healing and strength. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.

OFFERING

Musical Offering

"Turn Your Eyes"

Romanacce, Trout, Winebarger, Stiff

Congregation joins in singing the last verse.

All:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

George Romanacce, Helen H. Lemmel, Kevin Winebarger, Nathan Stiff, Nic Trout. © 2019 Sovereign Grace Praise; Sovereign Grace Worship. Used by permission. CCLI License #491876

DEDICATION OF TEACHERS AND STAFF

Staff listed on page 11 and 12

RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S

Jana Beckendorf – 25 years

Deanne Hofer – 15 years

We give thanks for the wonderful service provided by Jana and Deanne.

PRAYER

Gracious Father, we give thanks to You for the faithful service of your servants Jana and Deanne. Bless all of our teachers and staff with wisdom and patience and with love and faithfulness to your Word, that with gladness they may continue to serve your people here at St. John's.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Press On”

Where two or three are gathered In the name of the Lord
He is here, He is here in our midst.

And we will sing together, Be renewed by the Word,
When we part may we go in His peace. **Chorus**

Chorus

Press on, all you saints, Press on till the end.
Christ with us, ever with us Until He comes again.
Press on, all you saints, Run and run to win!
Christ with us, ever with us Until He comes again.

Now let the Word be scattered Like the seed on the soil;
Day by day, watch it grow in His care.
And may you be a shelter As you reach to the lost,
Glad in hope, calm in pain, true in prayer. **Chorus**

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SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

+ St. John's Teachers and Staff +

Jeff Angell	Summer Blast Director
Pastor Matthew Barry	Associate Pastor
Les Bauer	Campaign Support
Jana Beckendorf	5 th Grade Teacher
Cara Cline	LSEM Special Education
Jenna Colehour	School Nurse
Linda DeRocher	Organist/Pianist
Gretchen Dolan	Director of Curriculum and Support Services
Al Dutcher	8 th Grade Teacher
	Director of Athletics and Student Services
Pete Dysart	Band Teacher
Carol Eliason	School Administrative Assistant
Kayla Ellingson	Church Administrative Assistant
Amy Feek	4 th Grade Teacher
Keri Galchutt	Support Specialist/Art Teacher
Kendra Gilmore	School Principal
Tim Goltz	Visitation Ministry
Kylie Grahm	SEL Coach
Ashleigh Hegseth	School Events Coordinator
Abby Hendrickson	STEM/Enrichment
Heidi Hengst	6 th Grade Teacher
Julie Herrmann	1 st Grade Teacher
Deanne Hofer	PreKindergarten Teacher
Brian Johnson	Facilities Manager
Kristin Johnson	Principal Organist/K-5 th Music Teacher
Tracy Koepsell	Time to Grow Director/PreKindergarten Teacher
Christina Krueger	Church Media Coordinator
Airin Matzke	Kindergarten Aide
Maria Mayberry	Church Ministry Assistant
Ashley Moyer	Preschool/Kindergarten Aide
Allie Olson	1 st Grade Aide
Grace Ortloff	Kindergarten Teacher
Melanie Pandolfo	Preschool Teacher/Aide
Pastor Keith Perry	Visitation Ministry Pastor
Becca Peters	School Food Services

Karen Reich
Brian Riner
Pam Rodgers
Dr. Katie Rolf
Renee Siegle
Pastor Greg Snow
Laura Stender
Kate Swanson
Jenni Swenson
Justin Weber
Kim Wetzel
Kaye Wikstrom
Stephanie Wilaby

Preschool Aide
Assistant Custodian
1st Grade Aide
Director of Parish Music/Music Teacher
3rd Grade Teacher
Senior Pastor
2nd Grade Teacher
K-4th Grade PE Teacher
Preschool Teacher
Director of Christian Education
Librarian/Cub Care Director
Finance Assistant
7th Grade Teacher

+ Today's Worship Servants +

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Pastor Snow

Liturgist: Pastor Barry

Organist: 8:30/10:00 Kristin Johnson

Pianist: 6:30 Nancy Buckentine

Contemporary Musicians

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Elder: 8:30 Chris Mundahl/10:00 Tim Goltz

6:30 Bruce Bergo

Usher Team: 8:30 Josh Kulzer/10:00 Andy Tesch

Welcome Team: 8:30 Gayle Degler/10:00 Stender Family

Tech Crew: 8:30 Hunter Krueger, Dr. Katie Rolf, Spencer Roxas
10:00 Kaylee Koepsell, Rylee Koepsell, Dr. Katie Rolf

Coffee Hour: Evan and Jenna Anderson

Banner & Paraments: Joan Bode

Today at St. John's

8:30 & 10:00 AM | Blended Worship

9:30 AM | Coffee Hour

11:15 AM | Proposed Merger of Trinity Carver Town Hall Meeting

11:15 AM | Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

Upcoming Week	
Monday, August 24	5:15 PM Monday Night Meal
	6:30 PM Monday Night Worship
	7:00 PM AA
Tuesday, August 25	K-8 th First Day of School
Wednesday, August 26	6:30 PM Proposed Merger of Trinity Carver Town Hall Meeting
Friday, August 28	6:30 PM AA
Sunday, August 30	8:30/10:00 AM Worship
	9:30 AM Meet the Pastor
	6:00 PM Youth Night

Thank you for worshipping with St. John's today!

If this is your first time at St. John's, we invite you to fill out a CONNECTCard located at the Welcome Desk or by using the QR code. We look forward to CONNECT-ing with you.



Weekly Word Preview

Read all these stories at stjohnschaska.org/word, scan the QR code, or pick up a printed copy at the back of the church.



Meet the Pastor

Sunday, August 30
9:30 - 10:00 AM

Interested in learning more about St. John's or what it means to become a member? Join our pastors on Sunday, August 30th from 9:30–10:00 AM in the music room (room 102) for a casual time of conversation and questions.

This is a great opportunity to connect, learn more about our church, and see what membership looks like at St. John's. Please complete the short form on our website to let us know you plan to attend.

FALL *at* ST. JOHN'S

Come worship, connect, and find your place this fall.



Fall at St. John's begins September 13 with Sunday worship at 8:00, 9:30, and 10:45 AM. The 9:30 Education Hour includes Sunday School for ages 1 through 6th grade, High School Youth Group, Raising Disciples for

parents with a 7-week Identity Study, and other studies for youth and adults. Sunday School registration is open now. Scan the QR code to register and explore all the opportunities this fall!