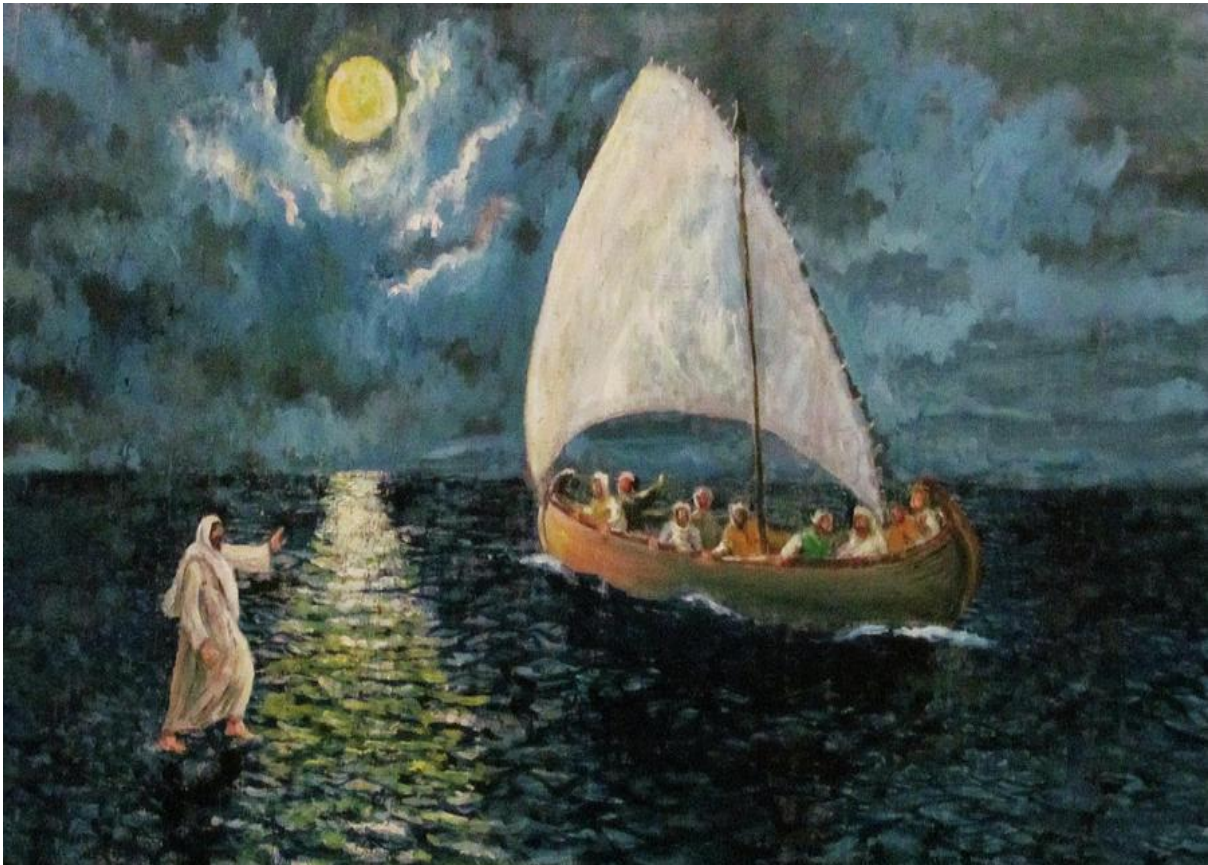


**St. John's Lutheran Church  
Belleville, PA**



**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 13, 2023**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**August 14:** The Synod hosts two events to which the entire congregation is invited to meet and fellowship with the Bishop of the Church in Liberia - **12noon** A Picnic at Reedsville Playground and a Baseball game later.

**August 14 – 18:** Pastor Ela will be at the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago. Joy Kaufmann will provide emergency pastoral care. Cell (717) 250-6307

**August 20:** The Communion service will include a service of Baptism for the younger children of Natalie Faith and Noah Harmon, and Sophia and Levi Harmon. Come to celebrate and support their immersion in Christ.

**\*GATHERING SONG ~ God Whose Almighty Word**

**God, Whose Almighty Word**

400

1 God, whose al - might - y word Cha - os and  
 2 Lord, who once came to bring, On your re -  
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,  
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, Glo - ri - ous

dark - ness heard And took their flight:  
 deem - ing wing, Heal - ing and sight,  
 ho - ly dove, Speed forth your flight;  
 Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might!

Hear us, we hum - bly pray, And where the Gos - pel day  
 Health to the sick in mind, Sight to the in - ly blind:  
 Move on the wa - ter's face Bear - ing the lamp of grace,  
 Bound-less as o - cean's tide, Roll - ing in full - est pride,

Sheds not its glo - rious ray,  
 Oh, now to hu - man-kind Let there be light!  
 And in earth's dark - est place  
 Through the earth, far and wide,

**\*GREETING**

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.**

P You are the treasured people of the LORD,

**C a people holy to the LORD our God.**

P 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.**

P One does not live by bread alone,

**C but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

**\*SCRIPTURE SONG**



☒ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na-tions.



Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?



☒ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.



☒ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.



☒ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev - er.

**\*PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison)**

P The Lord be with you. C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray...

C **God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair; deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**THE LESSONS**

First Lesson ~ A reading from 1 Kings 19:9-18

*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

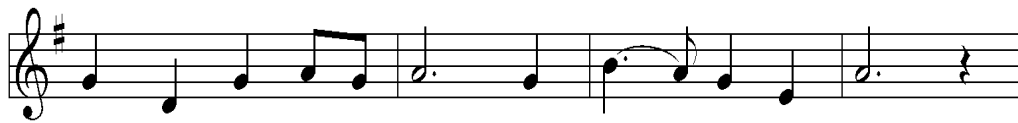
Psalm 85:8-13 ~ *with response*

Second Lesson ~ A reading from Romans 10:5-15

*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



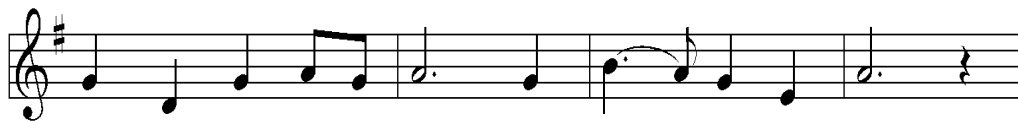
Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



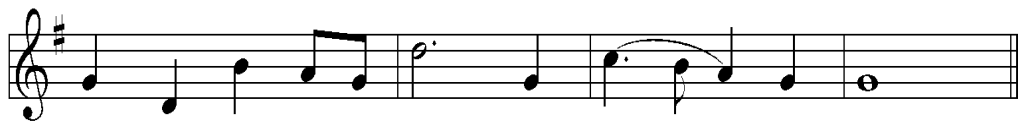
Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip - tures.



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

**\*GOSPEL READING**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

**SPECIAL SONG:** *The Sound of Silence* by Simon and Garfunkel  
Seulki Yoo and Pastor Ela Congregation is invited to sing along

*1. Hello darkness, my old friend, I've come to talk with you again,  
because a vision softly creeping left its seeds while I was sleeping.  
And the vision that was planted in my brain still remains  
within the sound of silence.*

*2. In restless dreams I walked alone narrow streets of cobblestone,  
neath the halo of a street lamp, I turned my collar to the cold and damp  
when my eyes were stabbed by the flash of a neon light that split the night  
and touched the sound of silence.*

*3. "Fool" said I, "You do not know, silence like a cancer grows."  
"Here my words that I might teach you. Take my arms that I might reach you."  
But my words like silent raindrops fell, and echoed in the wells of silence.*

*4. And the people bowed and prayed to the neon god they made.  
And the sign flashed out its warning in the words that it was forming.  
And the sign said the words of the prophets are written on the subway walls  
and tenement halls, and whisper'd in the sounds of silence.*

**\*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, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C pray in the Holy Spirit.**

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

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

**C Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**\*THE PEACE**


P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.


P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

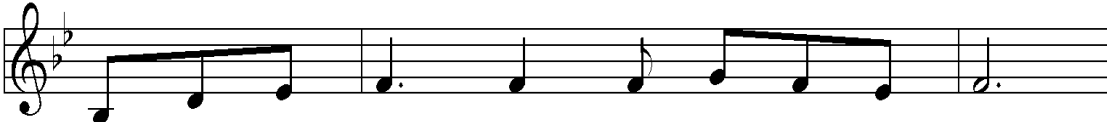
C And also with you.


**OFFERING** ~ you may leave your gifts in one of the offering plates at the end of the front and back pews on your way out.


**\*OFFERTORY**


  
 ☩ Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

  
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

  
 ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

  
 Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

  
 yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.



**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

P God, our Creator,

**C you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature.  
With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care.  
Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**PRAYER SONG:** *Mercy Flowing Everywhere [2X Instrumental People 2x]*  
**Mercy Flow. . . . ing, Everywhere, Everywhere**

**\*PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ~ Found in Celebrate**

P Confident that God receives our joys and concerns; let us offer our prayers for  
the church, those in need, and all of creation

*A brief silence.*

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily  
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the  
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

**\*THE BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C Amen**

**\*SENDING SONG ~ As the Deer**

(As the deer pants for water, so my soul longs after You. - Psalm 42:1-2)

One time instrumental - then congregation sing

1. As the deer pants for the wa-ter so my soul longs af-ter You.

You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor - ship You.

You a-lone are my strength my shield To you a-lone may my spir - it

You a-lone are my strength my shield To you a-lone may my spir - it

The image shows a musical score for the song 'As the Deer'. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The first system is the main melody with the lyrics '1. As the deer pants for the wa-ter so my soul longs af-ter You.' The second system continues the melody with 'You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor - ship You.' The third and fourth systems are instrumental parts, each with a treble and bass line, and the lyrics 'You a-lone are my strength my shield To you a-lone may my spir - it'. There are 'Slide Player' icons on the treble staves of the third and fourth systems. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

Verse 2: *I want You more than gold or silver, only You can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy-giver, and the apple of my eye. Refrain*

Verse 3: *You're my friend and you are my brother even though you are a king.  
I love You more than any other so much more than anything. Refrain*

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

**R** Thanks be to God

**\*POSTLUDE**

**Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

**Music Ministry:** Seulki Susie Yoo

**Today**

**Greeter:** Don and Rosalie Smith; **Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan

**Altar Care:** Susan Keller; **Sound:** Joe Kanagy

**Next Sunday, August 20**

**Greeters:** Jim and Georgianna Buchanan; **Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan

**Altar Care:** Susan Keller; **Sound:** Jay Byler

**Church Office:** 935-2032; **Email us at** [secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)

**St. John's Christian Day Care:** 935-2959

***Our Mission Statement***

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another in our homes, church, community and the world.*

***Our Vision Statement***

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Buck and Sandra Metz in honor of their family.

Please remember in prayer ~ Sarah Robertson (neck surgery, Pastor's niece), Miriam Williamson, Anne Peachey, Desa Keiser, Elliana Byler, Kyung Sun Yim, Bob Treaster, Samantha Smith, members ~ Joyce Stuck (Greenwood Village), Betty Harmon (Celebration Villa) and Don Wolfe (VVH).

**FROM the PASTOR**

A picnic and baseball game with guest, Bishop Padmore from Liberia, will be hosted by the Upper Susquehanna Synod today. All are invited to attend

- **Sunday, August 13, 12:00 p.m., picnic reception at Reedsville Area Playground (Honey Creek Road) – in case of rain, in Evangelical Lutheran Church social hall.**
- **Sunday, August 13, 4:00 p.m., Crosscutters baseball game, Williamsport**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Music and Worship committee will be meeting on Wednesday, August 23 at 10am in the blue room to select hymns. All members are encouraged to attend.

As a mission project, Council is collecting school supplies to fill backpacks for students at Indian Valley Elementary. Below is a list of the needed items, which are readily available at local Dollar Stores, Wal-Mart, Target, etc. They are also collecting needed items for the Shelter Service. Donations can be placed in the boxes located in the narthex and restroom area.

### **Backpack Supplies**

Pencils  
Erasers  
Folders  
Note books  
Lunch boxes/bags

### **Shelter Services**

Zip lock bags  
Aluminum foil  
Condiments of all kinds (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, etc.)  
Twin size sheets and comforters  
Adult and child backpacks

Located in the narthex/elevator is the latest *Lutheran Message* booklet. Not to be confused with the "Living Lutheran" magazine.

The Lutheran Message is provided free of charge to Lutheran churches across the US. It is not affiliated with the ELCA or any synod. Their purpose is to provide inspirational and uplifting articles and poems for all who share the Lutheran "family name".

Please pick up a copy for yourself and others who may enjoy reading one.

January 1 thru August 9, 2023

Last week's attendance ~ 20      Offering ~ \$2,335.00

St. John's ~ Income \$165,835.55      Expense \$ 172,389.68

Net Income \$ - 6,554.13\*

\*7,000 was trf from the Money Market to pay bills

Daycare ~ Income \$ 194,892.50      Expense \$ 212,552.00

Net Income - \$17,659.50\*

\* June was a 3-pay period month