

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Jim Hicks-Interim Pastor
Trey Davis-Musician Tyler Wood-Video
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST NOVEMBER 15, 2020

GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Now Is The Time To Worship

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
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
By Brian Doerksen Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)

Please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: As the apprentice looks to his craftsperson,

People: **so we look to you, O God.**

Pastor: As a child looks to her mother or father,

People: **so we look to you, O God.**

Pastor: As the loved one looks to their cherished partner,

People: **so we look to you, O God.**

Pastor: As the seeker looks to a wise, faithful one,

People: **so we look to you, O God.**

Pastor: As Jesus looked to the one he called "Abba," Father,

People: **so we look to you, O God.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: You will be our partner in adventure, as we use fresh gifts and talents, O God.

People: In the joy of success, and in the hard place of failure, you will be there.

Pastor: We will find you in the encouragement of a companion; we will know you in the compassion of a stranger;

People: and at the end of the day, you will be there, the source of affirmation and peace.

and the restored health, of those touched by Jesus.

Pastor: Yes, renewed courage and peace will be yours.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

You may be seated.

READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90: 1-8

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth
were born, from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly
and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

Reader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and

traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME (*in place*)

Jesus Loves Me!

Jesus loves me this I know, for the bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong, we are weak and He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. The bible tells me so.

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This is My Commandment

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

That your joy may be full. That your joy may be full.

This is my commandment that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

Author Unknown

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Lord Listen To Your Children Praying

Lord listen to your children prayin'
Lord send your spirit in this place
Lord listen to your children prayin'
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.
Text and Music Ken Medema©1973 Hope Publishing Company

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Peace like a River

ELW#785

It Is Well with My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*
Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

Please stand.

With the baptized of every time and place we profess the faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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 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

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Reader: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Reader: Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature (*local places of natural beauty may be named*). Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially:

16 Sherri White

19 Lynnette Mickelson

enrich them with a sense of your grace and comfort. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: We pray for the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, our Bishop, and St. Paul's, in Oklahoma City, that together we will boldly proclaim your Good News in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: For those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses, grant strength and grace. We pray for doctors, nurses, technicians, researchers and all who work toward treatments and cures. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: For those we know and love who serve in our military and their families. We pray that you watch over them and keep them safe bringing them home safely, especially: Evan Bias, Robert Marulli, Kaitlyn Tschida, Adam Shepherd, David Powell, Robert Woodrey, Nick Coleman, Mark Pritchard, James Wagoner, Jonathan Wagoner, Shawn Werchan, Kevin Spurgin, Daniel Picazo, Michael Morton, Daniel Mock, Dustin Miller, Rudy Palomares, Tyler Starkey, Jonathan Young, Austin Watlington, Yahola Jones, John Winsworth, James Winsworth, Justin Smith, Kobe Coker, John Burns III, Garrick West, Logan West, Brenden Salvador, and Jordyn Scott. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors (*especially*). Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love.

Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

***People:* Amen.**

The WAVE of PEACE is shared at this time.

People may greet one another, in the name of the Lord, while staying at their seats.

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

***People:* And also with you.**

Please be seated.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord... Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

***People:* Amen.**

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

OPEN COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The blessings and body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting.

***People:* Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Never Give Up On Me

Time after time you've been left behind, like the sun when it's starting to rain.

Time after time you've been forgotten, like a picture that's faded with age.

Time after time, you ran after me, when I was still running away.

(Chorus) You never give up on me. No, You never give up on me.

Though I'm weak you are strong you told me I still belong.

No, you never, never give up on me.

Time after time I've used your grace, as a way to do what I please.
I've taken for granted, prayers that you answered, never been all I could be.
You are holding out your hands and now I clearly see. (*Chorus*)

You always erase all my mistakes.
You lift me up when I'm down.
Through all the ages, Your love never changes.
You welcome me just as I am. (*Chorus*)

Never give up . . . never give up on me.
Words and Music by Michael Boggs and Josh Bates

BLESSING

Pastor: Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you
into the way of truth and life.

People: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Remember the less fortunate.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Upcoming Commemorations

Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231 Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

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2020 Annual Meeting

Election

Congregation Council 2021

3 - 3 Year Terms

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1 - 1 Year Term

- 1.

Synod Assembly Delegates

Delegates for the Synod Assembly

1 male, 1 female

1 young adult (under 25)

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 2021, Tulsa Oklahoma

1. [Male]
2. [Female]
3. [Young Adult]

Nominating Committee

Nominations for 2021 Nominating Committee

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Constitution Revised 12.18.1990

C13.02.A NOMINATING COMMITTEE of six voting members of this congregation, two of whom, if possible shall be outgoing members of the Congregational Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are eligible for consecutive re-election.

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| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |