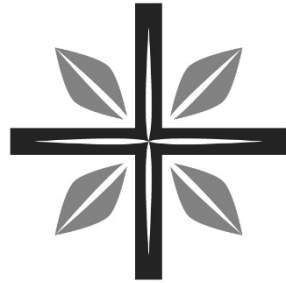


St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



Welcome to our visitors!

- It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.
- Large print service folders are available from an usher. Assisted listening devices, including both ear bud and loop receivers for digital hearing aids, are also available from an usher.
- Children's service folders and worship notes are available in the round tract rack in the entry area.
- Parents may take small children into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed and follow the worship service on the TV monitor. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- As the offering is received, members and guests are asked to sign the Friendship Register. Please pass the register to your neighbor and then return it to the center aisle. Visitors are also asked to fill out a guest card and give it to an usher.
- Please join us for Bible class at 9:15 AM.
Luther's Lasting Impact: Fellowship Hall, lower level of church
Bible Information Class: St. Matthew's Room, lower level of church
A staffed nursery is available during Bible class.

The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 8, 2017

Reformation 500: Grace Alone

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Please stand to sing the final stanza

Salvation Unto Us Has Come

Christian Worship 390

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, according to your pleasure and will, in Christ you chose us by grace to be holy and blameless in your sight. We thank you for your amazing grace, your undeserved love for sinners. May we always treasure your grace as our dearest possession, and proclaim it to the ends of the earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of a single staff of music. The lyrics 'A - men.' are placed below the notes, with a hyphen indicating that 'men' spans across two notes. The staff ends with a double bar line.

Be seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The new covenant is a covenant of grace.

“The time is coming,” declares the LORD,

“when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers

when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,

because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’

because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 24 (see pg. 11)

The King of glory comes to show grace to his people.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 2:1-9

By nature, we were dead in our sins. By grace, God made us alive in Christ Jesus.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia, alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.
Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Please stand

Gospel

John 3:14-16

All who look to Jesus for salvation receive it by God's grace.

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Anthem

Adult Handbell Choir

Celtic Grace
by Susan Geschke

Amazing grace – how sweet the sound – that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me; his Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Hymn of the Day

By Grace I'm Saved
Christian Worship 384

Sermon

John 1:1-3, 14, 16, 17

Grace Alone

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.**

Be seated

THANKSGIVING

Offering

The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.

Please stand

Prayer of the Church

M: Let us pray to the Lord for the Christian church on earth and for all people everywhere: For all who gather here today and for our entire congregation, that through the gospel the Lord would give us growth in faith and increase our love:

C: **We ask you to bless us, O Lord.**

M: For the spreading of the gospel throughout the world; for all pastors, missionaries, and their families, that they may boldly proclaim Christ to the nations:

C: **We ask you to hear us, O Lord.**

M: For those who are struggling with depression, sadness, and grief, that in the middle of their deep darkness the ever-shining light of Christ's grace and truth may renew their joy and gladness:

C: **We intercede for your name, O Lord.**

M: For the people of our country; for the Lord's blessings on our work; for those seeking employment; for good health; and for good weather:

C: **We beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

M: For all who are sick in body or mind; for the hungry and the homeless; for those who are in prison; for those who are dying and those who are mourning:

C: **We ask you to help them according to your will, O Lord.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

M: All this we ask, O Father, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Be seated

Hymn

Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound

Christian Worship 379

Please stand

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.



Be seated

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World
Christian Worship 62

Announcements

WELS Connection

Conventions

Postlude

If you do not wish to take your service folder home, please place it in the basket so it can be reused.

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“*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*” Text public domain.

Readings for the Week of Pentecost 18

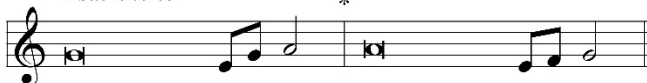
M	Romans 13:8-10.....	Matthew 12:1-8
T	Matthew 15:1-9.....	Matthew 15:10-20
W	Matthew 17:24-27.....	Isaiah 1:10-17
TH	1 Corinthians 9:19-23.....	Galatians 2:11-21
F	Galatians 5:1, 4-6, 13-15.....	Galatians 6:14-18
S	Amos 5:10-15.....	Hebrews 4:9-13

Psalm 24

Refrain



Psalm tone



The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
he will receive blessing from God his Savior. *Refrain*

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty – he is the King of glory.

**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. *Refrain***

Serving at Worship

Preacher	Pastor Joel Leyrer
Presiding Minister	Pastor Kyle Bitter
Musician	Lisa Eggebrecht, organ
Adult Handbell Choir Director	Kristi Meyer
Head Ushers	Kerry Kuehn (8:00 AM) Rick Yahn (10:30 AM)
Greeters	Adam & Jenny Greggs, Paul Katzer, Chris Sturdevant (8:00 AM) Steve & Cindy Zemplinski, Matt & Jenny Bahr (10:30 AM)

Worship Notes

- The altar flowers are placed by Brian and Clare Cleary in celebration of their 39th wedding anniversary, and in thanks for blessings received.
- The flowers in the standards are placed by Marshall and Barbara Scheibe and Dawn Lambrecht in memory of their beloved friend, Matthew Stano.

In Our Prayers

- Ed Herwig, convalescing at The Lutheran Home from his recent heart surgery.
- John Ellenberger, hospitalized at Froedtert but moving soon to an assisted living facility.
- Hailey Moldenhauer and Michael Anderson, united in marriage at St. John's on Saturday

Parents' Preview for October 15

The Parents' Preview highlights an aspect of next week's service: a liturgical song, a Psalm refrain, or a hymn stanza. Our hope and prayer is that parents will teach this portion of the service to their children at home during the week so that children can participate more fully in the worship service.

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" *Christian Worship 402 (stanza 1)*

I My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of
Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me
while I pray; Take all my guilt a - way;
Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!

As we approach the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, our service folders will highlight several key theological emphases of the Reformation. Please also mark your calendars for the Southeastern Wisconsin District Reformation Festival service, held on Sunday, November 5 at 3:30 PM at the Miller High Life Theater.

The Heart of Lutheranism: Justification by Faith Alone

God has declared sinners righteous. That's the chief article of the Christian faith. What moved God to make that declaration was not sinners' obedience to his commands – because they could only merit a judgment of condemnation – but exclusively his astounding grace (Romans 3:24). For the sake of the perfect life and innocent death of his Son, offered on behalf of all, God has justified a world of sinners (Romans 4:25). By the work of the Holy Spirit, those who trust in Christ for the forgiveness of their sins have through faith the righteousness that counts before God on the day of judgment. They need not live in fear that God will punish them for their sins here or hereafter (Romans 8:1), because Christ's righteousness has been credited to all who, despairing of their ability to produce a righteousness that would please God, cling to Jesus.

We are justified through faith alone, apart from any works we have done. That central teaching of Scripture stands at the heart of Lutheranism. As Lutherans, we believe, teach, and confess the astounding truth of the gospel restored to its proper place at the time of the Reformation: we receive the forgiveness of sin by God's grace, for Christ's sake, through trust in Christ's perfect work in our place. Because the God who never lies and is never mistaken has declared us righteous, we are free from the pressure of doing some great work to attract God's attention or show ourselves worthy of his love.



*As God supports us now and eternally through the life, death and resurrection of his Son, we have the high privilege of using our gifts and talents to support the work of the Gospel ministry he has entrusted to us. On the weekend of **October 21 and 22**, designated as our **"Celebration of Support"** Sunday, we will take the opportunity to consider the part each of us plays in the ministry we share at St. John's. What follows is the second of three "testimonials" from a fellow St. John's member on . . .*



ADAM GOEDE

What St. John's Means to Me



My then-girlfriend, Stephanie, and I first attended St. John's when we were students at Wisconsin Lutheran College because it was the closest church. Soon, we began to notice the eager contributions of the members in worship. We enjoyed the sermons, which really dug deep into God's Word. We were impressed that people remembered us.

After graduating and getting married, we stayed in the area and became members. We were at that critical point in our lives where we were learning to do things on our own, and faith was a part of that. The pastors' loving encouragement to be in the Word, and invitations from members to come to Bible studies, have had a major impact in our lives. At the same time, we have enjoyed opportunities to be a part of the ownership of the church by helping in various ways and have appreciated that our ideas are welcomed.

Fourteen years later, with kids in the school, we are grateful to God and the congregation not only for the ongoing spiritual encouragement but also for strong friendships – really it feels more like family. People have many solid congregations to choose from, but finding a church that is such a perfect fit is a gift from God. Only God knows what he has planned for us, but we hope to keep our life based around St. John's where the gospel of Christ is not only taught but so warmly felt.

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

