



# 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.
- Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area.
- Large print service folders, assisted listening devices, children's service folders, and children's worship notes are available from the ushers.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in our worship today. Scripture tells us that the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in God's Word and a privilege reserved for those who have publicly confessed their oneness in faith. Therefore, we ask guests who are not members of WELS or ELS congregations to refrain from communion until such oneness can be established. We do not intend to be exclusive and unloving. Rather, we desire to faithfully carry out the teaching of Scripture and further explore God's Word with you in the hope that we may eventually enjoy such "communion fellowship" together. For more information, please speak with one of our pastors.

# The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

## Mission Festival

September 16 & 17, 2017

Summer in Rome: Sacrifice

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### Prelude

#### Opening Hymn

*Please stand to sing the final stanza*

**Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly**

*Christian Worship 484*

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

**C:** See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples,

**M:** but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

**C:** Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. *Isaiah 60:1-3*

**M:** Too often, we have not been witnesses to the light of the LORD. Therefore let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

*Please kneel*

**C:** Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

**M:** In his great mercy, God called us out of the land of the shadow of death and into the dawn of his great and glorious light. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Please stand*

**M:** I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;

**C:** **I will take hold of your hand.**

**M:** I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,

**C:** **to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison, and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.** *Isaiah 42:6, 7*

**Congregational Song of Praise**

**Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations**  
*Christian Worship 577 (stanzas 1 & 4)*

**Rise, O Light of Gentile nations,  
Jesus, bright and Morning Star;  
Let your Word, the gladsome tidings,  
Ring out loudly near and far,  
Bringing freedom to the captives,  
Peace and comfort to the slave,  
That the heathen, free from bondage,  
May proclaim your pow'r to save.**

**Savior, shine in all your glory  
On the nations near and far;  
From the highways and the byways  
Call them forth, O Morning Star.  
Guide them whom your grace has chosen  
Out of Satan's dreadful thrall  
To the mansions of your Father –  
There is room for sinners all.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **THE WORD**

### **First Lesson**

**Judges 16:22-31**

*Samson repented, took up his cross, and sacrificed his life for the LORD.*

But the hair on Samson's head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands."

When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying,

"Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands,  
the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain."

While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them." Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the LORD, "O Sovereign LORD, remember me. O God, please strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes." Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

Then his brothers and his father's whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.

**Psalm of the Day (Saturday)**

**Psalm 121**

*As we take up our crosses, we lift our eyes to the LORD for help.*

*Refrain*



Keep me, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye.



Hide me, hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.

*Psalm tone*



I lift up my eyes to the hills.

Where does my help come from?

My help comes from the LORD,

the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip,

he who watches over you will not slumber;

indeed, he who watches over Israel

will neither slumber nor sleep.

*Refrain*

The LORD watches over you,

the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The LORD will keep you from all harm,

he will watch over your life;

the LORD will watch over your coming and going

both now and forevermore.

**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***

**Psalm of the Day (Sunday)**

*Junior Choir & Congregation*

**A Mountain Psalm**

*by Helen Kemp*

Choir: To the hills I lift up my eyes.  
To the hills and the skies I lift up my eyes,  
To the hills, to the hills!

And I wonder, I wonder, I wonder, I wonder,  
From where does my help come when I call out for help,  
When I call out for help, when I need someone near me  
To listen and hear me, to love and to cheer me?  
From where does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord above, the Lord who made heaven and earth!  
The Lord is my helper, the Lord is my guide,  
My faithful companion who stays by my side,  
My helper, my guide who stays by my side now and forever. Amen!

To the hills I lift up my eyes.  
To the hills and the skies I lift up my eyes,  
To the hills, to the hills!

**C: O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home!**

Choir: To the hills I lift up my eyes.  
To the hills and the skies I lift up my eyes,  
To the hills, to the hills!

## Second Lesson

**Romans 12:1-8**

*Because Jesus took up his cross and sacrificed his life for us, we offer our lives as living sacrifices.*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

## Verse of the Day

**M:** Alleluia, alleluia. Your words became a joy to me and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.

*Please stand*

## Gospel

**Matthew 16:21-26**

*Because Jesus offered himself as the ultimate sacrifice, we too take up our crosses and follow him.*

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

**M:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day**

**Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken**  
*Christian Worship 465*

**Sermon**

**Romans 12:1-8**

Gifts for Giving

*Please stand*

**Nicene Creed**

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**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:** Almighty God, whose Son died on the cross to redeem all the people of the earth, open our eyes to see that the harvest of souls is plentiful but the workers are few.

**C:** **Give us a sincere concern for those who will be lost without you.**

**M:** Look with compassion on the millions of people who are still sitting in spiritual darkness under the shadow of death – both those near at hand and those far away.

**C:** **Wherever your workers are proclaiming your message of salvation, support them in their efforts and bless the labors of their hands.**

**M:** O Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on us that we also might be active in sharing your Word with others.

**C:** **Help us to speak your message of salvation to others, and give us the courage to overcome our fear of witnessing to your holy name.**

**M:** Bless our Wisconsin Synod and our ministerial education schools as they seek to prepare pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and missionaries.

**C:** **Touch the hearts of young people with a deep love for you. Move many of them to commit their lives to a career in the public ministry.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow*

**M:** On this Mission Festival, we pray that you bless your missions as you have promised. Let the workers be sent out, supported, and sustained. Let the communion of saints grow and expand in all the earth.

**C:** **Use each and every one of us in this blessed harvest. Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT**

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is good and right so to do.**

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is

might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In  
he Who in God's name is com - ing To

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and  
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And  
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -

in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.  
liv - er us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, migh - ty Lord!

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**M:** Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. By his incarnation, he became one with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

**M:** Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C:** Amen.

### 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.**

### Words of Institution

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** Amen.



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated*

*To receive communion, please proceed down the center aisle and exit via the side aisles.  
 Grape juice is available in the center of the individual cup tray for those unable to receive wine.  
 Personal prayers for communion can be found on pg. 17 of the service folder.*

**Distribution Hymns**

**Onward, Christian Soldiers**  
*Christian Worship 537*

**Christ Is With Me (see pg. 16)**  
*Christian Worship Supplement 761*

**O Living Bread from Heaven**  
*Christian Worship 314*

*Please stand*

O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace, as -  
 sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -

car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -  
 light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,  
 crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!

**M:** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

*Be seated*

**Closing Hymn**

**What is the World to Me (stanzas 1 & 4)**

*Christian Worship 477*

**Announcements**

**Postlude**

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

# Serving at Worship

<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Kent Reeder
<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Kyle Bitter
<b>Musician</b>	Dr. William Braun, organ
<b>Junior Choir Director</b>	Mandy Treder
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Jeff Quint, Larry Totsky, Bill Dittman (8:00 AM) Adam Goede, Andrew Duncan, Dan Pollesch (10:30 AM)
<b>Greeters</b>	Mark & Mary Meissner and Steve & Jen Wolf (8:00 AM) Paula Rauth and Becky Rehborg and Mark & Chris Rindfleisch (10:30 AM)
<b>Head Ushers</b>	Rick Yahn (Saturday); Tom Wessel (8:00 AM); Doug Knuth (10:30 AM)

## In Our Prayers

- **Pastor Eric Schroeder**, who received a **divine call** this past Monday to serve as an associate pastor at **St. John's Lutheran Church in Two Rivers, Wisconsin**. Ask the Lord to provide Pastor Schroeder with wisdom and clarity as he prayerfully deliberates where he might best serve God's kingdom in the future.
- **Randy LaMarche**, husband and father of member **Jill and Mason**, in critical condition in the Froedtert Hospital ICU; and **Pam Sweet**, mother of member **Tim Sweet**, also in the Froedtert ICU. Pray for God's grace and oversight as each family awaits the unfolding of God's will for their loved one.



1 We were bur - ied with him in - to death,  
 2 I have now been graft - ed to the vine,  
 3 I have now been cru - ci - fied with Christ.



That as he was raised by God's glo - ry,  
 Draw - ing life from roots rich in mer - cy,  
 I no long - er live; Christ lives in me.



We might walk in life made new by grace.  
 Bear - ing fruit as I a - bide in him:  
 Now I live by faith in God's own Son,



Hav - ing died with Christ, we shall live with  
 Fruit for - ev - er fresh, glo - ri - fy - ing  
 One who loved me so— gave him - self for

*Refrain*

him.  
 God. Christ is with me  
 me.



ev - 'ry - where I go. Nev - er to



leave me, this I know.

## Personal Prayer for Before Communion

Heavenly Father, through this sacrament you invite me to receive your Son's body and blood. I thank you for this gift of grace and for your forgiveness given here. Lead me to your altar with a humble and repentant heart. Strengthen me with your presence through the communion present in this meal. Amen.

## Personal Prayer for After Communion

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

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### Readings for the Week of Pentecost 15

M	Mark 1:40-45.....	Isaiah 40:25-31
T	1 Timothy 1:12-17.....	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
W	2 Corinthians 9:10-15.....	1 Chronicles 17:16-27
TH	1 Thessalonians 1:2-10.....	2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
F	Philippians 1:12-18.....	Mark 14:3-9
S	Philippians 1:19-26.....	Revelation 4:1-11

## Parents' Preview for September 24

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.

### “Jesus Sinners Does Receive” (stanza 1)

#### *Christian Worship 304*



I Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this

say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live

And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope

for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

## **Sunday Bible Classes**

New Sunday Bible Classes and Sunday School begin **this Sunday** at 9:15 AM.

A staffed nursery is available during Bible class.

### **Mission Festival (September 17)**

**Taught by Pastor Kent Reeder in the Fellowship Hall**

Join us as Pastor Kent Reeder from Illumine Lutheran Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina leads a special mission festival Bible class. Illumine has been a site for our teen mission trips since 2015.

### **Luther's Lasting Impact (begins September 24)**

**Taught by Professor Joel Otto (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary)  
in the Fellowship Hall**

The fact that the world is marking the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses says something about the lasting impact of the Reformation. This is especially true for us who call ourselves "Lutherans." This Bible study will examine some of Luther's key theological emphases and note how they impacted the life of the church in areas like his translation of the Bible into the language of the people, education and his catechisms, worship, and the daily life of the Christian. Luther's theological emphases, rooted in Scripture, continue to impact the life of the church today and the way we, as Lutheran Christians, live our faith in the face of 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges.

### **The Wonders of God – Bible Information Class**

**Taught by the Pastoral Staff  
in the St. Matthew's Room**

This course provides a general overview of the Bible, touches upon every major Christian doctrine, and supplies a solid understanding of what we confess and believe as a confessional Lutheran Church. Since it provides the foundation for a deeper relationship with God, we encourage both members and non-members to attend.

