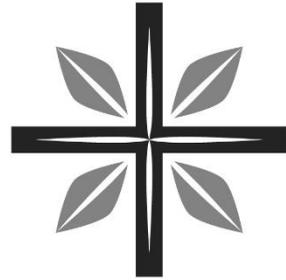




# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church



## 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 a.m.  
*Christian Apologetics:* Fellowship Hall, lower level of church  
A staffed nursery is available during Bible class.

# The Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 21 & 22, 2019

Why is the Christian Life Hard? Faith is not glamorous!

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## Prelude

### Opening Hymn

*Please stand to sing the final stanza*

### Built on the Rock

*Christian Worship 529 (Saturday)*

*see pg. 13 (Sunday)*

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

**C:** Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

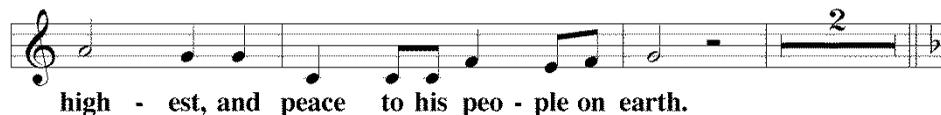
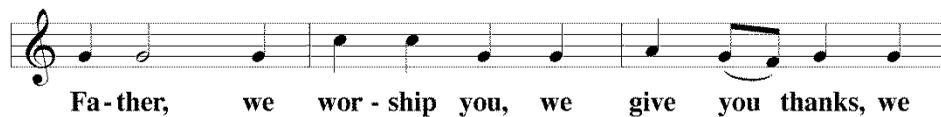
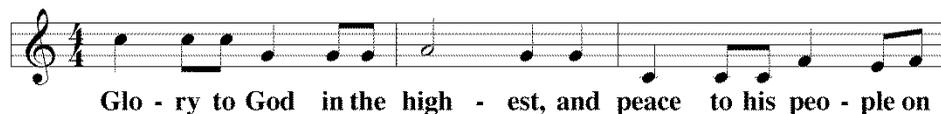
Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy  
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

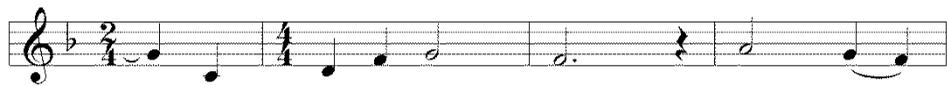
## PRAYER AND PRAISE

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





Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



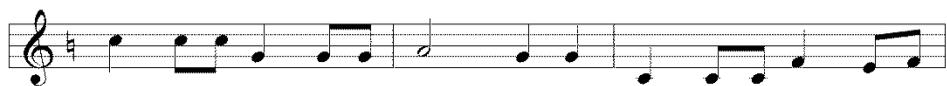
have mer-cy on us. You are



seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re -



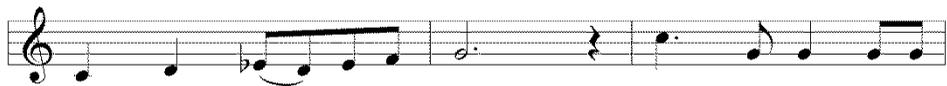
ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



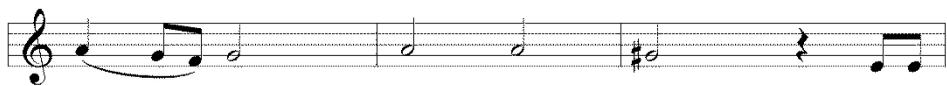
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on



earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,



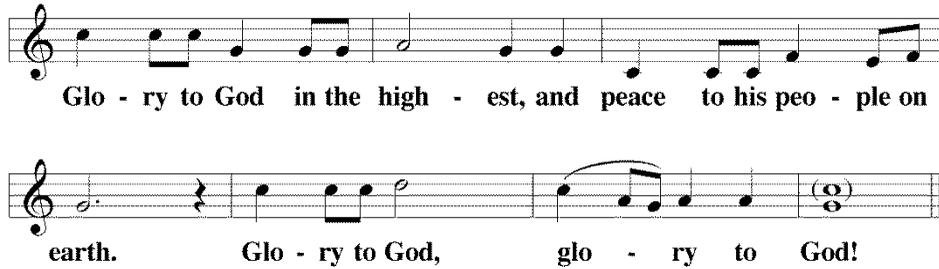
you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the



Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir-it in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther.



**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**

**Proverbs 25:6, 7<sup>+</sup>**

*Humble servants of the king wait for his call rather than exalting themselves.*

Do not exalt yourself in the king’s presence,  
 and do not claim a place among great men;  
 it is better for him to say to you, “Come up here,”  
 than for him to humiliate you before a nobleman.

---

**† Proverbs:** Proverbs is one of five Old Testament books classified as “wisdom literature” (along with Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs). Wisdom literature is a genre of writing that focuses on existential questions about God, humanity, and the nature of evil and suffering. For more information on Proverbs, see pg. 45 of *Understanding Lutheran Worship*, found in the hymnal rack.

**Psalm of the Day**

**Psalm 119a**

*Blessed are those who humbly serve the LORD – the King – and walk according to his law.*

*Refrain*



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

*Psalm tone*



Blessed are they whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the LORD.

Blessed are they who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart.

You have laid down precepts  
that are to be fully obeyed.

*Refrain*

Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
in obeying your decrees!

Then I would not be put to shame  
when I consider all your commands.

I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.

**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*

## Second Lesson

**James 2:1-13**

*Humble servants of the King who have known mercy also show mercy to others.*

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

### Verse of the Day

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

*Please stand*

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

### Gospel

**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

*Humble servants of the King do not honor themselves but instead serve those in need.*

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. If so, the host who invited both of you will come

and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated*

**Anthem (Sunday)**

*Adult Choir*

**In Christ Alone**

*arranged by Mark Hayes*

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.  
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am his and he is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from his hand.  
'Til he returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I stand.

## Hymn of the Day

**O Fount of Good, for All Your Love**  
*Christian Worship 524*

## Sermon

**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

### The Way Up is Down

*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*

## 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. To submit your offering electronically, scan the QR code or visit [www.sjtosa.org/giving](http://www.sjtosa.org/giving). If you are a visitor today, you are welcome but not obligated to give an offering.*



*Please stand*

## Prayer of the Church

**M:** Father, we thank you that you have released us from the law and that we now belong to Christ.

**C:** Help us to always serve you in the new life of the Spirit and bear fruit for you.

**M:** Father, we thank you for all that you do to provide us with our daily bread. Be with those who work to grow the fruits of the earth that you have given us for food.

**C:** **Give them favorable weather and a successful harvest. Allow the fruits of their labor to provide for the needs of the many who rely on them.**

**M:** Father, we thank you for our nation and the many freedoms that you have provided for us here. Guide our leaders to serve us with integrity.

**C:** **Be with those who defend our freedoms in the armed forces, as well as those who protect our freedoms closer to home.**

**M:** Father, we thank you for the seasons and the means to travel the earth that you have given us. Keep safe all who journey, whether by land, sea, or air.

**C:** **Bring them safely to their destinations and see them safely home again.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

**M:** Father, we thank you for the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us. We join our prayer with their unending prayers before your throne.

**C:** **Bring us one day with them to the feast of joy that has no end in the kingdom of your Son. 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.**

*Be seated*

#### **Hymn**

**Love in Christ is Strong and Living**  
*Christian Worship 490*

*Please stand*

**M:** Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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**

**We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight (see pg. 14)**  
*Christian Worship Supplement 756*

**Announcements**

**WELS Connection**

2019 Synod Convention

*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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**Acknowledgements**

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“*In Christ Alone*” Text © 2002 Thankyou Music.

# Built on the Rock

**Stanza 1 (Choir):** Built on the Rock the Church shall stand  
Even when steeples are falling.  
    Jubilate Deo!  
Crumbled have spires in every land;  
Bells still are chiming and calling,  
    Jubilate Deo!  
Calling the young and old to rest,  
But above all the souls distressed,  
Longing for rest everlasting.  
    Jubilate Deo!

**Stanza 2 (Choir):** Surely in temples made with hands,  
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;  
High above earth His temple stands,  
All earthly temples excelling.  
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above  
Chooses to live with us in love,  
Making our bodies His temple.

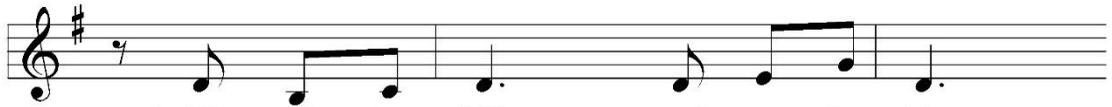
**Stanza 3 (Choir and congregation):**

We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His  
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal  
grace us owns Heirs of His won-drous sal - va - tion.  
Were we but two His name to tell, Yet He would  
deign with us to dwell With all His grace and His fa - vor.

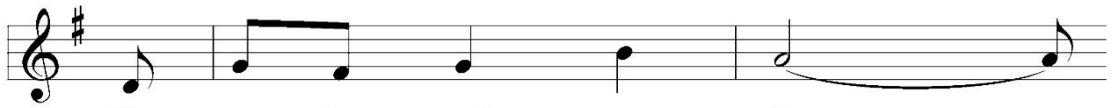
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## 756

## We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight



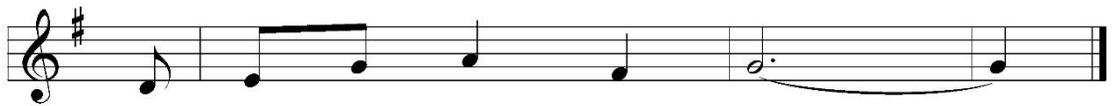
1 We walk by faith and not by sight;  
 2 We may not touch his hands and side  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief,  
 4 For you, O res - sur - rec - ted Lord,  
 5 Lord, when our life of faith is done,



No gra - cious words we hear  
 Nor fol - low where he trod,  
 And may our faith a - bound  
 Are found in means di - vine:  
 In realms of clear - er light,



From him who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
 But in his prom - ise we re - joice  
 To call on you when you are near  
 Be - neath the wa - ter and the Word,  
 We may be - hold you as you are



But we be - lieve him near.  
 And cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 And seek where you are found.  
 Be - neath the bread and wine.  
 With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Tune: SHANTI (86 86) Martyr Haugen, b. 1950 © 1984, 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.  
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# Serving at Worship

<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Eric Schroeder
<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Joel Leyrer
<b>Musicians</b>	Carmen Rupprecht, piano (Saturday) Lynn Kozlowski, organ (Sunday)
<b>Adult Choir Director</b>	Dr. William Braun
<b>Greeters</b>	Dave & Dana Leyrer, Peter & Sharon Trettin (8:00 a.m.) Marcus & Karah Radue, Paula Rauth, Becky Rehborg (10:30 a.m.)
<b>Head Ushers</b>	Jon Johnson (Saturday); Kerry Kuehn (8:00 a.m.); Rick Yahn (10:30 a.m.)
<b>AV Operators</b>	Brian Cleary (8:00 a.m.); Ben Haferman (10:30 a.m.)

## Worship Notes

- The flowers are placed by Mary Hansen and Dominic Boettcher in celebration of Jameson Zylka's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and by Bob and Jenny Lindert in celebration of their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

## In Our Prayers

- Michael and Alyssa Arroyo upon the birth of their daughter, Emersyn James Arroyo, born Tuesday, September 17.
- Karlee Nova Bikomeye, daughter of Jean Bikomeye and Aisha Uwineza, baptized in a private ceremony following our 10:30 a.m. service today.
- Zachary Todor, receiving specialized care at Children's Hospital.

