



*15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020- 10:00 a.m.*

ST. JOHN EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR VISION:

We envision a world fed and led by God.

OUR MISSION:

Fed and led by God, we live as a neighbor - in the West Central community, the city of Fort Wayne, and all the world.

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Rev. Paul Offhaus

Director of Music
Jay Heare

Organist
Martin P. Gigler

Caring Ministries
Tony Shelton



**COMMUNION TO BE CELEBRATED IN
(REMOTE AND PUBLIC) WORSHIP TODAY**

We are celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion today and every Sunday moving forward. Here is what you will need to do on your end:

If attending our public worship:

We will be offering communion in one part, that is, wafers but no wine/ grape juice. Communicants will be directed by the ushers to come forward by side (left side from front to back, then right side), masked and maintaining physical distance from those outside of their family unit. After receiving the wafer from Pastor or the Assisting Minister (both of whom will be masked), you are asked to step to the side (on the 'X') before removing your mask to partake of communion. Then return, masked, to your seat. Hand sanitizers will be available on the tables by the side aisles.

If at home worshipping remotely:

1. Gather the elements you will need: bread, crackers or even a tortilla wrap, as well as wine or grape juice. If you'd like to make your own (unleavened, if you wish) bread, one was printed in the April newsletter or you can find several online.
2. Prepare a space for you to place the elements, either at a table or coffee table, perhaps with a tablecloth. Set the elements out for that point in our worship.
3. After the Words of Institution, you may then partake of the elements. If you are sheltering with others, share them with one another; if not, simply consume them yourself. In either case, speak the words, "The Body of Christ, given/broken for you/me . . . The Blood of Christ, shed for you/me," to remind you of Christ's presence "in, with, and under" (Luther's words) the ordinary elements of bread and wine.

As in previous instances of remote communion, we honor and respect you, whether you choose to partake or not to partake. *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.* + Ephesians 4:4

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY & FRIDAY
IN OFFICE 8:00 AM-3:00 PM
TUESDAY-THURSDAY (REMOTELY)
8:00 AM-3:00 PM**

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020
10:00 a.m.**

P = Presiding Minister; **A** = Assisting Minister; **C** = Congregation

GATHERING

Prelude..... *“Prelude on “Holy Manna”* - Wilbur Held

Ringing of the Church Bells

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Faithful God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. As a called and ordained minister . . . in the name of the †Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

The Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

(Please remain in place and maintain physical distancing while you greet those around you in the name of Christ.)

Gathering Hymn **WORSHIP BOOK - 834**

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

- Vs 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!
- Vs 2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- Vs 3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.
- Vs 4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

The 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.**

The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray, O Lord, merciful judge,

C: **you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

First Reading.....*Exodus 14:19-31*

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting or them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm - *Exodus 15:1-15 (read responsively)*

A: Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

C: I will sing to the LORD, who has triumphed gloriously; throwing horse and rider into the sea.

A: The LORD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation; this is my God—this God I will praise; my father's God—this God I will exalt.

C: The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

A: The LORD hurled Pharaoh's chariots and army into the sea; his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

C: The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.

- A: Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power—your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.
- C: In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries; you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.**
- A: At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up, the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.
- C: The enemy said, “I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.”**
- A: You blew with your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.
- C: “Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, doing wonders?”**
- A: Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.
- C: And Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the LORD, who has triumphed gloriously; throwing horse and rider into the sea.”**

Second Reading..... *Romans 14:1-12*

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

The Gospel Acclamation **WORSHIP BOOK - Setting 10 Page 205**

“Alleluia”



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel *Matthew 18:21-35*

(spoken)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SermonRev. Paul Offhaus

Song of the Day.....**Worship Book**
“*The God of Abraham Praise*”

Vs 1 The God of Abr'ham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love.
Jehovah, great I Am! by earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

Vs 2 The God of Abr'ham praise, at whose supreme command
from earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.
I all on earth forsake--its wisdom, fame, and pow'r--
and him my only portion make, my shield and tow'r.

Vs 3 The God of Abr'ham praise, whose all-sufficient grace
shall guide me all my pilgrim days in all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend; he calls himself my God!
And he shall save me to the end through Jesus' blood.

Vs 4 He by himself has sworn; I on his oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heav'n ascend.
I shall behold his face; I shall his pow'r adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace forevermore.

Apostles' Creed

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 Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, 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.

Prayers of the People (*after each petition, please respond as follows*):

A: Lord, in your mercy, **P:** ...through Christ our Lord.
C: hear our prayer. **C:** Amen.

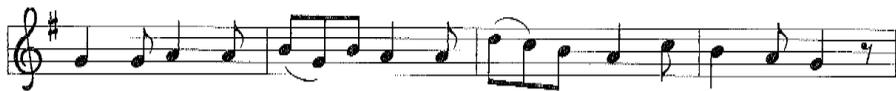
Time of Offering

MEAL

Canticle of Thanksgiving..... **WORSHIP BOOK - 207**
“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



cv - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Communion (*in the public gathering or in your own homes*)

(Lutheran Christians proclaim that Jesus Christ is truly present “in, with and under” the ordinary elements of bread and wine. To receive Holy Communion, therefore, is to receive Christ. All who seek to be nourished in faith and life through the presence and power of the Lord Jesus Christ are welcome to share in this Meal.)

Communion Music..... “My Deliverer”

Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, both now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

SENDING

The Blessing

Sending Hymn.....**WORSHIP BOOK - 547**
“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Vs 1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us,
his love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

Vs 2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing his children of each tribe and race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Postlude on “St. Denio”* - Charles Callahan

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS (9/13)

Presiding Minister & Preacher..... Rev. Paul Offhaus
Assisting Minister..... TBD
Worship Leader Jay Heare
Organist Martin P. Gigler
Greeters..... Diane Gebfert, Volunteer Needed
Deacon Mike Mommer
Ushers Cindy & Catie Witters
Altar Guild..... Linda McGahey, Stacie Stauffer
Media/Sound..... Mike McGahey, Pete Newcomb, Lori Paul

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS (9/20)

Presiding Minister & Preacher..... Rev. Paul Offhaus
Assisting Ministers Elizabeth Evans, Abigail Offhaus
Worship Leader Jay Heare
Organist Martin P. Gigler
Greeters..... Ruth Miers Ann Arnold
Deacon Mike Mommer
Ushers Cindy & Catie Witters
Altar Guild..... Lois Sharp, Dorthy Eppe
Media/Sound..... Mike McGahey, Pete Newcomb, Lori Paul

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



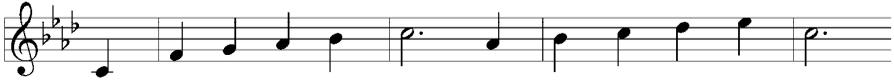
most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1903, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh folk tune

The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2 The God of A-br'ham praise, at whose su-preme com-mand
3 The God of A-br'ham praise, whose all-suf-fi-cient grace
4 He by him-self has sworn; I on his oath de-pend.



An-cient of ev-er - last-ing days, and God of love.
from earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.
shall guide me all my pil-grim days in all my ways.
I shall, on ea-gle wings up-borne, to heav'n as-cend.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con-fessed;
I all on earth for-sake— its wis-dom, fame, and pow'r—
He deigns to call me friend; he calls him-self my God!
I shall be-hold his face; I shall his pow'r a-dore,



I bow and bless the sa-cred name for-ev-er blest.
and him my on-ly por-tion make, my shield and tow'r.
And he shall save me to the end through Je-sus' blood.
and sing the won-ders of his grace for-ev-er - more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt.

Music: YIGDAL, Hebrew, arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks-giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing, the



peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.
tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed the
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em -



fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of his teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in - vite us, his love shall u - nite us to
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing give



work for God's king - dom and an - swer his call.
hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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SERMON NOTES
