

WORSHIP: LIVING WITH TEMPTATION

Sunday, January 22, 2023

9:30 am

PRELUDE

“Prelude in A”

Gustav Merkel

RINGING OF THE BELL

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Even when we feel alone in the wilderness,

we worship you and serve only you.

Despite the temptations life may throw at us

we worship you and serve only you.

As we contemplate the path ahead

we worship you and serve only you, wherever it may lead.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water--

Lake Michigan, the Chicago River, the Skokie Lagoons,

the rain that nourishes animals and plants,

the water for drinking and bathing.

Refrain

Refrain

Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!

Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!

Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for - ev - er - more!

We praise you, O God, for our water stories--
a flood that cleansed the earth,
the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy.
We remember the waters of Jesus--
baptized in the Jordan River,
calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well,
healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet. *Refrain*

We praise you, O God, for this font,
for you breathe into this water
to wash away the sin that divides us
and birth us each day into your peace and joy.
O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
We praise you, O God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
today, tomorrow, forever. *Refrain*

Text from *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table* by Gail Ramshaw, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reproduced by permission. Adapted by The Rev. Allison Bengfort.

GATHERING HYMN

Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering

G Am C D E Am D/F# Bm C

1 Mark how the Lamb of God's self - of - fer - ing our hu - man sin - ful -
 2 From this as - sur - ance of God's fa - vor Je - sus goes to the
 2 Grant us, O God, the strength and cour - age to live the faith our

G D G C Em D G D G C

ness takes on in the birth - wa - ters of the Jor - dan as Je - sus
 wil - der - ness, there to en - dure a time of test - ing that read - ied
 lips de - clare; bless us in our bap - tis - mal call - ing; Christ's roy - al

D Em Dsus D G D G Em Am Em Asus A D

is bap - tized by John. Hear how the voice from heav - en thun - ders,
 him to teach and bless. So we, by wa - ter and the Spir - it
 priest - hood help us share. Turn us from ev - ery false al - le - giance,

G D G Am G C Em G

"Lo, this is my be - lov - ed Son." See how in dove - like
 bap - tized in - to Christ's min - is - try, are of - ten led to
 that we may trust in Christ a - lone: raise up in us a

Am G D G C D Em Dsus D G

form the Spir - it de - scends on God's a - noint - ed one.
 paths of ser - vice through maz - es of ad - ver - si - ty.
 cho - sen peo - ple trans - formed by love to be your own.

GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

God of strength, your child Jesus withstood many temptations because his love for you was greater than his earthly desires. Make our love for you so strong, that we might withstand anything that threatens to stand between us and your love. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING

Psalm 91

A reading from the Psalms.

- ¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
- ²you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”
- ³For God will rescue you from the snare of the hunter
and from the deadly plague.
- ⁴God’s wings will cover you, and you will find refuge beneath them;
God’s faithfulness will be your shield and defense.
- ⁵You shall not fear any terror in the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
- ⁶nor the plague that stalks in the darkness,
nor the sickness that lays waste at noon.
- ⁷A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
- ⁸You will only have to look with your eyes,
and you will see the reward of the wicked.
- ⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,
- ¹⁰no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.
- ¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.
- ¹²Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.

- ¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
- ¹⁴I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.
- ¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
- ¹⁶With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-17

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, to be tempted by the Devil. ² After fasting for forty days and forty nights, Jesus was hungry. ³ Then the tempter approached and said, “If you are the Only Begotten, command these stones to turn into bread.” ⁴ Jesus replied, “Scripture has it, ‘We live not on bread alone but on every utterance that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Next the Devil took Jesus to the Holy City, set him on the parapet of the Temple ⁶ and said, “If you are the Only Begotten, throw yourself down. Scripture has it, ‘God will tell the angels to take care of you; with their hands they will support you that you may never stumble on a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus answered, “Scripture also says, ‘Do not put God to the test.’ ”

⁸ The Devil then took Jesus up a very high mountain and displayed all the dominions of the world in their magnificence, ⁹ promising, “All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ At this, Jesus said to the Devil, “Away with you, Satan! Scripture says, ‘You will worship the Most High God; God alone will you adore.’ ” ¹¹ At that the Devil left, and angels came and attended Jesus.

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he went back to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town near the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled: ¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, the way to the sea on the far side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: ¹⁶ the people who lived in darkness have seen a

great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”¹⁷ From that time on, Jesus began proclaiming the message, “Change your hearts and minds, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

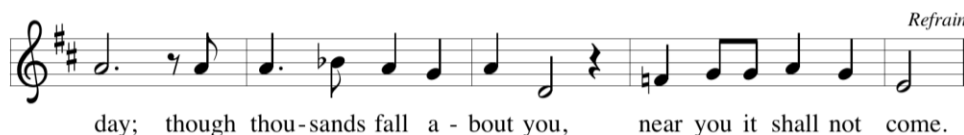
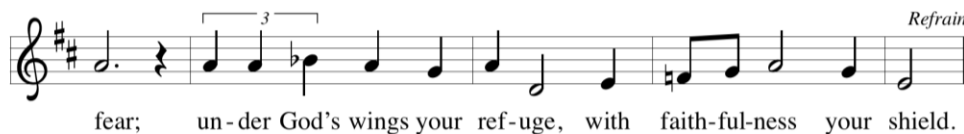
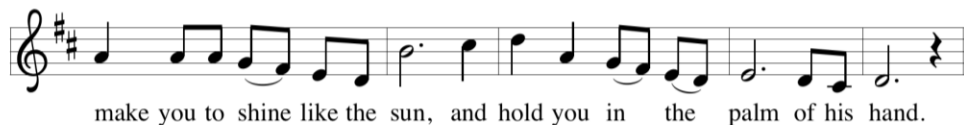
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Eagle's Wings (ELW 787)



Leader or All

4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up-on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a- gainst a stone.

Final refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957
 Music: ON EAGLE'S WINGS, Michael Joncas
 Text and music © 1979 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn your hands toward the sky; close your eyes or lift your eyes to the altar.

In the midst of the bustling city, still there is wilderness.
 In the profound quiet of the empty glen, still there is power.

Not to deserts alone need we wander
 to find that we wonder about life in its fullness and depth.
 For there are still centers
 to the storms of activity in the busiest places.
 And some of those still centers
 are lonely.

We pray for a world often in wilderness:
 finding hope a barren prospect,
 feeling faith a dusty lie,
 fearing doubt might just destroy.

Tall questions press,
searing truths pierce,
and hearts get laid bare.

And the temptation is to turn for ease and plenty
and safety and distraction:
turn life inwards selfishly;
chasing hollow dreams,
and empty promises.

Or the temptation is to meet the emptiness with anger,
lashing out as if inflicting pain eases the despair felt,
and so turn life outwards but again selfishly:
chasing a strange salvation
at the expense of others' peace.
We pray for the hollow-dream-chasers:
confusing moral peace with material plenty,
and finding a strange, unsettling wilderness.

We pray for the lashers out:
confusing power with ambition
and finding the same strange and unsettling wilderness.

Pause for silent prayers.

We pray for your guidance, O Lord, and we give thanks for your unshakeable love.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with those around you, honoring the personal boundaries of all.

+ Meal +

CALL TO OFFERING

The first words of the Bible are about God's own generosity. God gave us the gifts of a beautiful creation, our home, the good green earth, and the animals that live here with us. This morning, we come together to thank God and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church will continue to grow and be a blessing to our community. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"For the Mountains Shall Depart" from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn

OFFERTORY VERSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 182)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

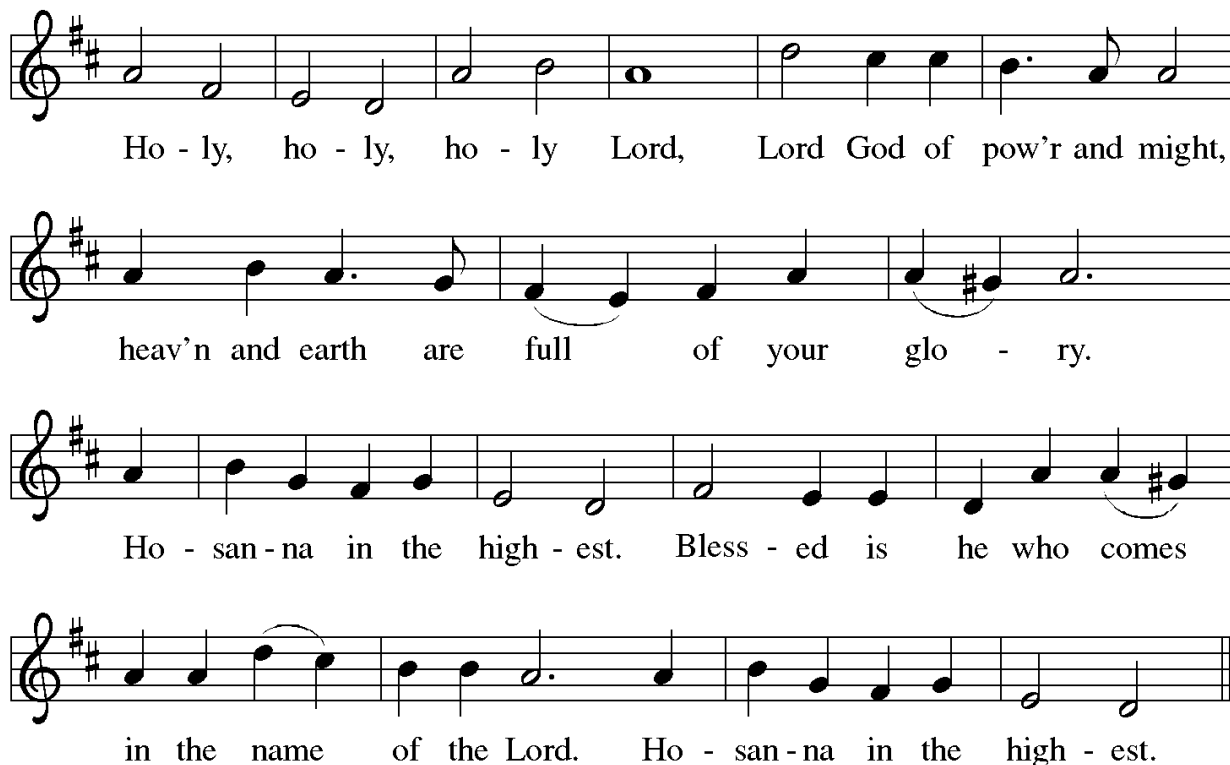
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

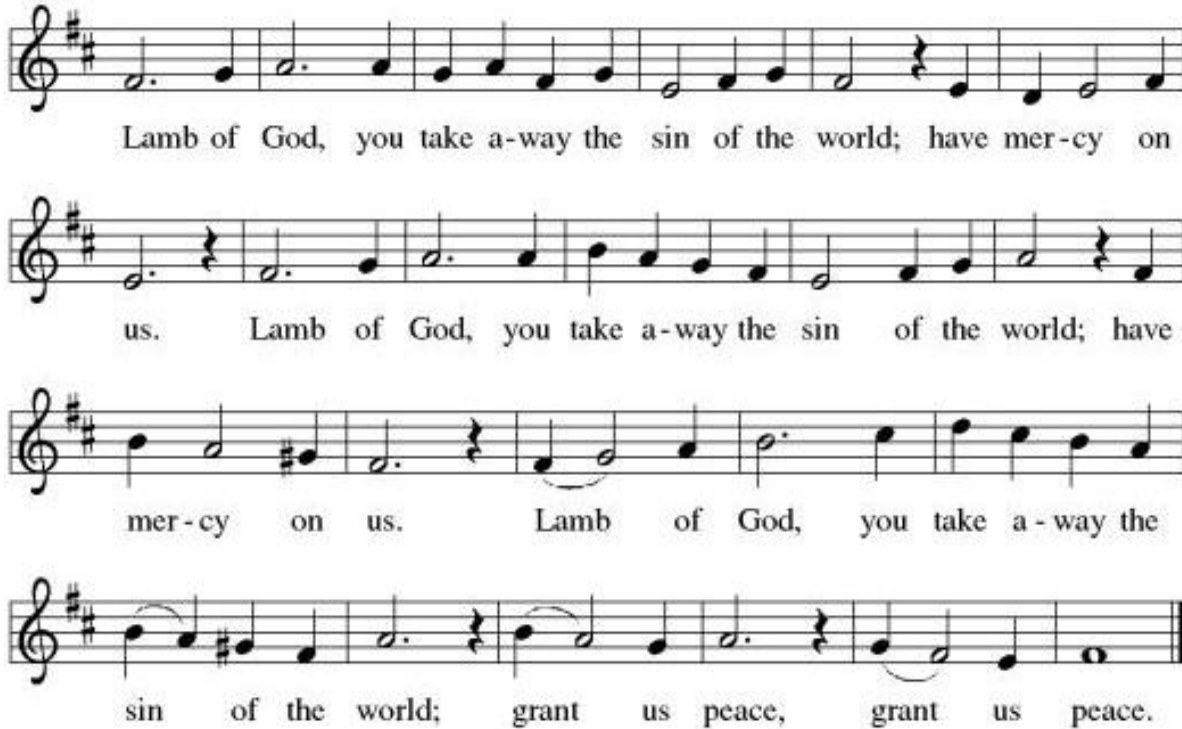
**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION

COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION SONG

What We Need Is Here

Join in the singing as soon as you have caught on to the tune.

From "Wild Geese" by Wendell Barry:

Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear,
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye
clear. What we need is here.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

Struggle, temptation, desire, want.

All these longings rage within us.

So, we go with the assurance of God's pardon,

the foundation of God's love,

and the promise of God's presence

to guide and protect.

Peace. Mercy. Grace. Hope. Be with you all.

And also with you.

In the name of the Creator, ✠ the Christ, and the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (ELW 310)



- 1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
- 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
- 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint - ing soul;
- 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, guided by Christ.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Fantasia”

Johann Krebs

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting & Budget Forum

Our Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 29, during the 9:30 am service. The congregation will vote on the 2023 budget, vote on the proposed Missional Identity statements, and elect representatives to the 2023 Metro Chicago Synod Assembly. Today you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed budget during a Budget Forum with members of the Finance Team from 11:00 am to noon. Please plan to attend these important meetings!

Children’s Church & Youth Choir

For all parents, Children’s Church continues during the service this morning. For further information, please contact the Youth Ministry Team (Luke & Erin Rasmussen and Jason Shutters). Rehearsals for the Youth Choir also continue today from 11-11:30 am in the sanctuary. All children are welcome to sing; participation in the Fall is not required. The youth choir will be providing special music at select services during the Winter and Spring. For more information, please email Luke Duroc-Danner (luke@stjohnswilmette.com).

Our RIC Journey Begins

This winter and spring, our congregation will be doing the internal reflection and learning necessary to become not just welcoming, but fully affirming of the LGBTQIA+ community. This is called the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) process, which our RIC Team (Chris Maglocchi, Chad Johnson, Molly Bolash, and Luke Rasmussen) hopes will culminate in an affirmative vote at our June congregational meeting to become an RIC church.

Confronting the Biblical “Clobber Passages”

This event, which will focus on passages in the Bible that are often misused to argue that homosexuality is a sin, has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 12, from 10:45-11:45 am. The Rev. Kaari Reiersen, Social Responsibility Associate for the ELCA, founder of the *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*, and contributor to the ELCA's social statement on Human Sexuality, will be our presenter as we engage with these tricky passages. Please bring your questions and curiosities!

“Have A Heart” Valentine Benefit Luncheon for Holy Family

The Women of Trinity Lutheran Church cordially invite the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church to join them for a Holy Family Benefit Luncheon on Saturday, February 11 at 11:30 am at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. Please make your reservation by Sunday, February 5, by signing up in the gathering area or contacting Cindi Rachowicz by phone at 224-307-3513 or email (att41623@sbcglobal.net). Let's show our support with a table for eight. All proceeds will fund the annual tuition for a child at Holy Family School.