

FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 15, 2022

9:30 am

INTRODUCTION

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

PRELUDE

“Lord, Be Glorified,” arr. Mark Hayes
“They’ll Know We Are Christians with Blest Be the Tie,” arr. Carol Tornquist

+ **Gathering** +

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Are Welcome (ELW 641)

The congregation may stand and face the cross. The congregation may turn to continue facing the cross as it is carried forward.

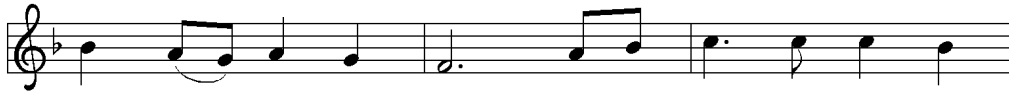
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty,
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things,
sustaining life in this community, nourishing and delighting us.

We bless you for these gifts of water:

Lake Michigan, the Chicago River, and the Skokie Lagoons.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power:

Noah and the animals survive the flood,

Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea,
and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism

joined to your life-giving Word:

your well of mercy and cleansing flood,

your sea of deliverance from death into life,

your healing river washing sin away,

your living water springing up to eternal life.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Shower us with your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your love.

Clothe us and all your people with grace.

Embolden us to do justice. Bless us to love mercy.

Guide us to walk humbly with you,

whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace. We pray through your Child, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ **Word** +

READING

Acts 11:1-18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

¹ The apostles and the community in Judea heard that Gentiles, too, had accepted the word of God.

² As a result, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, some of the Jewish believers took issue with him. ³ “So you have been visiting the Gentiles and eating with them, have you?” they said. ⁴ Peter then explained the whole affair to them step by step from the beginning: ⁵ “One day when I was in the

town of Joppa, I fell into a trance while at prayer and had a vision of something like a big sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners. This sheet came quite close to me. ⁶ I watched it intently and saw in it all sorts of animals and wild beasts—everything possible that could walk, crawl or fly. ⁷ Then I heard a voice that said to me, ‘Now, Peter, make your sacrifice and eat.’ ⁸ I replied, ‘I can’t, my God. Nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth!’ ⁹ And a second time the voice spoke from heaven, ‘Don’t call profane what God has made clean.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times, then the sheet and what was in it was drawn up to heaven again. ¹¹ “Just at that moment, three couriers stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to fetch me, ¹² and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about returning with them. These six believers came with me as well, and we entered Cornelius’ house. ¹³ He told us he had seen an angel standing in the house who had said, ‘Send messengers to Joppa and bring back Simon, known as Peter; ¹⁴ he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household.’ ¹⁵ “I had hardly begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way she came on us in the beginning, ¹⁶ and I remembered what Christ had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ I realized then that God was giving them the same gift that had been given to us when we came to believe in our Savior Jesus Christ. And who am I to stand in God’s way?” ¹⁸ This account satisfied them, and they gave glory to God, saying, “God has granted the repentance that leads to life—even to Gentiles!”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (pp. 2366-2367). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

PSALM

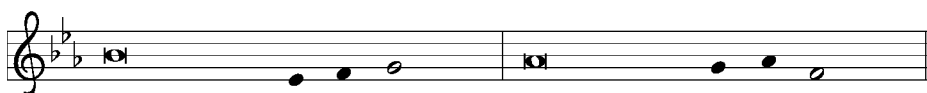
Psalm 148

The congregation sings the antiphon and the verses in bold.

Antiphon:



Psalm Tone:



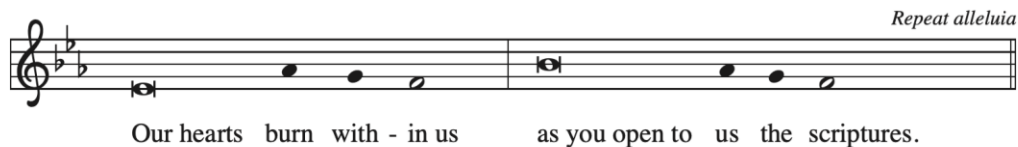
- ¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
 praise God¹ in the heights.
- ²**Praise the LORD,¹ all you angels;**
sing praise, all you¹ hosts of heaven.
- ³Praise the LORD,¹ sun and moon;
 sing praise, all you¹ shining stars.
- ⁴**Praise the LORD, heav-¹ en of heavens,**
and you waters a-¹ bove the heavens.
- ⁵Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
 who commanded, and they¹ were created,
- ⁶**who made them stand fast forev-¹ er and ever,**
giving them a law that shall not¹ pass away. Antiphon

⁷Praise the LORD¹ from the earth,
 you sea monsters¹ and all deeps;
⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,**
tempestuous wind, do-¹ing God's will;
⁹mountains¹ and all hills,
 fruit trees¹ and all cedars;
¹⁰**wild beasts¹ and all cattle,**
creeping things and¹ flying birds;
¹¹sovereigns of the earth¹ and all peoples,
 princes and all rulers¹ of the world;
¹²**young¹ men and maidens,**
old and¹ young together. *Antiphon*

¹³Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over¹ earth and heaven.
¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people**
and praise for all¹ faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people
who are near the LORD.¹ Hallelujah! *Antiphon*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand and turn to continue facing the cross as it is brought among the people.



GOSPEL

John 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, “Now is the Chosen One glorified and God is glorified as well. ³² If God has been glorified, God will in turn glorify the Chosen One and will do so very soon. ³³ My little children, I won’t be with you much longer. You’ll look for me, but what I said to the Temple authorities, I say to you: where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you’re to love one another the way I have loved you. ³⁵ This is how all will know that you’re my disciples: that you truly love one another.”

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

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 2323). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SERMON

The congregation may be seated.
Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

The congregation may stand.
Where Charity and Love Prevail (ELW 359)



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. 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 them upward; close your eyes or lift them to the altar.

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. (*Pause for prayers.*)

God, in your mercy, *or* Lord, we praise you,
hear our prayer. **Thanks be to God.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

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

The congregation may stand.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

+ Meal +

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The congregation may be seated.

During this season of Easter, we are inspired by the beloved community of the early church, where resources were shared by all. We, too, seek to share our resources so that we can live in harmony, balance, and mutuality with one another. Following the example of the earliest Christians, we offer our gifts now, so that the ministry of this church may continue to participate in God's compassion and renewal.


OFFERING

*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 at stjohnswilmette.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!*

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,” arr. Craig Curry

OFFERTORY VERSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure.**

**Word and water, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.**

**Receive the gifts we bring,
and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.**

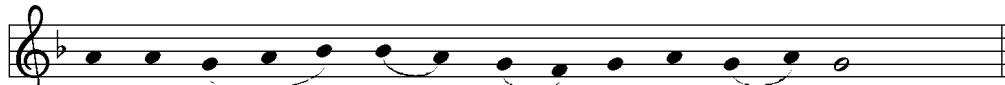
DIALOGUE



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

The musical score is written in a single treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Those worshipping online are invited to raise their bread and wine along with the pastor to be blessed.

LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION

COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table! 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, maintaining social distancing. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. Please step forward and then remove your mask to eat in front of the altar. Next, you may select glass of wine (dark colored) or grape juice (light colored). You may drink and then place the empty glass in the basket provided. Please put your mask back on before returning to your seat. 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 elements will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

COMMUNION HYMN

When Jesus Set His Table

When Jesus set his table, no one was turned away.
That table was a promise, of blessing and of grace.
So set the table faithfully: Invite the whole world in!
If we would share God's full embrace, then here's where we begin.

No race, no creed, no nation; no love of heart and vow;
No gender is rejected. The table's waiting now.
So set the table faithfully: Invite the whole world in!
If we would share God's full embrace, then here's where we begin.

Whoever we find difficult, and seek to keep outside,
That is the very neighbor, who must not be denied.
So set the table faithfully: Invite the whole world in!
If we would share God's full embrace, then here's where we begin.

When Jesus set his table, no one was turned away.
That table is our promise. It's ours to tend today.

Text: Amanda Udis-Kessler (Queer Sacred Music), adapted by Pr. Allison Bengfort.
Tune: Waterlife (ELW 732).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Living God,

**as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord,
we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ.**

**Through this meal, may we be strengthened
to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION VERSE



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



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and your minds in † Christ Jesus.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing (ELW 543)

The congregation may turn to continue facing the cross as it is carried out.



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Go in peace. Tell everyone what God has done.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"I Love to Tell the Story,"

arr. Joel Raney

FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION RECEPTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations, First Communion Students!

We are so happy to celebrate with the following students as they receive communion for the first time today:

- Amelia Flachsbart
- Madeline Flachsbart
- Arjun Malhotra
- Sam Novak
- Ben Rasmussen
- Lila Shutters

A reception in their honor will be held in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Family Promise at St. John's

St. John's is excited to be hosting Family Promise families for one more week. Currently, there are two families in the program: Marcus and his sons, Marius (4 years), Ky (3 years), and Maison (1 year); Dulce and her daughter, Valerie (1 year). We have had a wonderful time getting to know these families and sharing dinners with them. There are two open evenings for dinner volunteers: Thursday 5/19 and Friday 5/20. If you would like to provide dinner and eat with the families on one or both of these nights, please contact Jan in the church office.

Help Fund a St. John's Brick for Wilmette's New Walkway

The celebration of Wilmette's 150th birthday includes the improvement of a Village Center alley to provide safe pedestrian access between the Metra parking lot and the shops and restaurants in the Village Center. Part of this work will be a sidewalk with commemorative bricks identifying citizens, businesses, and organizations that have been part of the development of the community. St. John's is certainly one of the foundational organizations dating back to its establishment in 1903, and we would like to commemorate that fact. So far, \$150 has been pledged towards a St. John's brick, which will allow us to purchase a brick in the smaller size. With just \$100 more in pledges, we will be able to purchase the large size brick! If you would like to contribute towards this effort, please do so through Jan Wendel in the church office. The deadline is May 31.

Mission & Vision Special Service

On Sunday, May 22, we will have a special worship service that includes a focus on the ongoing development of our strategic plan. The Mission and Vision Team will share the ideas and reflections we heard during the small group sessions in March-April, and there will be opportunity for further reflection. The service will be held in the Fellowship Hall, and there will be no Zoom or streaming of the service that Sunday. See you there as we continue to discern together where the Holy Spirit is leading St. John's!

Online Bible Study to Conclude May 24

Tuesday, May 24th will be our final Bible Study for this program year. Please join us this week or next on Tuesday at 11:00 am-12:00 pm via our worship Zoom link.

Sesquicentennial Memorial Day Unity March & Ceremony

As part of Wilmette's Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Sesquicentennial Planning Committee is observing Memorial Day (May 30) by conducting a special Unity March and Ceremony to honor the 110 Wilmette men and women who died while serving their country in time of war. Representatives from Wilmette's civic, service, governmental, religious, business, and other organizations/groups are invited to participate in the march and attend the ceremony. Pastor Allison will be leading a group from St. John's

in marching together. If you'd like to march, please meet at the St. Joseph's parking lot at 9:30 am on Monday, May 30. The 0.9-mile march will begin at 10:30 am and conclude at Village Hall for the ceremony.

Visitors for Sarah

Sarah Rink, a regular participant at the Saturday service and now a participant in Sunday morning services, is looking for folks who would be willing to visit her in her home (1900 Wilmette Ave. #2F). She is experiencing chronic pain, and having visitors would be a great blessing in her life. She is open to hosting visitors at 4 pm or 5 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Sarah is fully vaccinated and happy to wear a mask if that is preferred. Please give her a call at 847-251-2758 to let her know when you can stop by!

Family Promise Farewell Party for Tracy McKeithen

You are invited to a farewell party for Tracy McKeithen, Family Promise North Shore Executive Director, today at 1:00-3:00 pm at St. John's. Tracy has been with Family Promise since August of 2011, and she is leaving for another position. Come for refreshments and to wish Tracy farewell and Godspeed. See the link in this week's Enews for further information.

Mask Update

Masks are now optional for activities at St. John's with the important exceptions of worship and youth programming. Worship leaders, including cantors/song leaders, may now remove masks while leading, but the congregation will remain masked and socially distanced from leaders. If you have any questions or concerns about our current policy, please contact our Re-Entry Team (Pastor Allison, Michel Hauser, Al Swanson, Christi Wise).

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a nonprofit that donates a small percentage of your Amazon purchases to a charity of your choice. If you plan to make any orders on through Amazon, please consider using smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com to make your purchases. There, you can search for all the same products and have access to all your prime benefits, and when you place your order, you can designate "St John Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity. Please note that we recommend Amazon Smile to be used only as an alternative to Amazon.com. Whenever possible, St. John's encourages all its members to make purchases locally.