WORSHIP: JOSEPH IN PRISON Sunday, September 25, 2022 9:30 am

Prelude

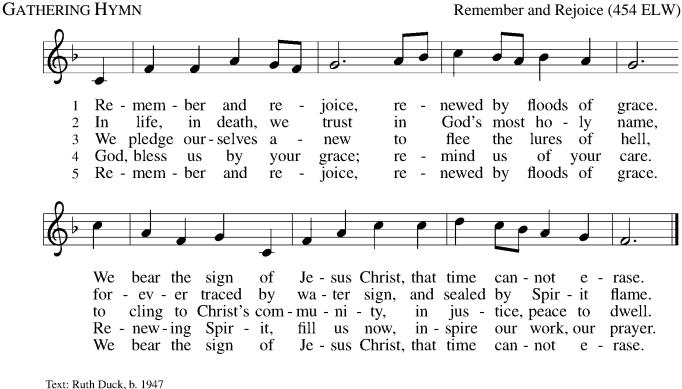
"Solemn Processional"

Robert A. Harris

+ Gathering +

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we enter into sacred covenant with God. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the Life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

LITANY OF PRAISE: OUR COVENANTING GOD



We bless and thank you, Lord our God, for the promise you spoke to Noah: **"I establish my covenant with you:**

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Never again will all life be destroyed by the water of a flood." (Gen. 9:11) With joy, your people heard the sure promise:
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Refrain

For the promise you spoke to Abraham and Sarah: **"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."** (Gen. 17:7) With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

For the promise you spoke to Moses, Miriam, and the people of Israel: "If you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then you will be my treasured possession. You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Ex. 19:5-6) With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

For the promise you spoke to David: "I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." (2 Sam. 7:12-13) With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

For the promise you spoke through Jeremiah: **"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel: I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."** (Jer. 31:33) With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

For the promise you spoke through Jesus: **"This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."** (Matt. 26:28, Luke 22:20) With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

Heirs of the promise, called by your Spirit, we hear again these gracious promises. With joy and trust we declare: **You are our God; we are your people.**

Words and Music (JANNA fragment): David A. Hoekema, 1978. © 1985 Faith Alive Christian Resources

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

God of presence, you remained fully with Joseph when he sat long years in a prison for a crime he did not commit. Help us to see that you are always with us, so that we might live faithfully in your world. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

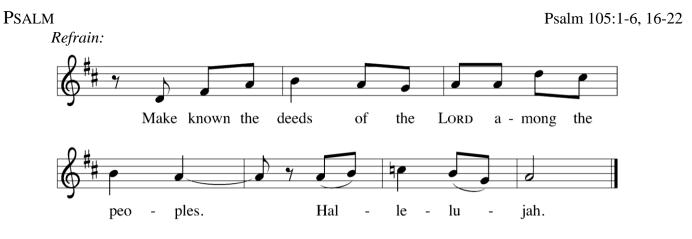
THE BIBLE STORY

Genesis 39:1-23

In keeping with the oral tradition of scripture, the Bible Story is presented verbally. You are invited to receive the story with open ears, minds, and hearts, joining with our ancestors in faith

who have received these narratives through oral storytelling for thousands of years. For those who are hard of hearing, the text is provided on page 17.

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



Psalm 105:1.45

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Psalm Tone:



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* \otimes 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹Give thanks to the LORD and call up-¹ on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD a- 1 mong the peoples. ²Sing to the LORD, sing praises, and speak of all God's | marvelous works. ³Glory in God's ¹ holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the |LORD rejoice. ⁴Search for the strength ¹ of the LORD; continually | seek God's face. Refrain ⁵Remember the marvels | God has done, the wonders and the judgments | of God's mouth, ⁶O offspring of Abra-¹ ham, God's servant, O children of Jacob, God's | chosen ones. ¹⁶Then God called for a famine ¹ in the land and destroyed the sup- | ply of bread. ¹⁷The LORD sent a | man before them, Joseph, who was sold | as a slave. Refrain

¹⁸They bruised his | feet in fetters; his neck they put in an | iron collar.
¹⁹Until his prediction | came to pass, the word of the LORD | tested him.
²⁰The king sent | and released him; the ruler of the peoples | set him free,
²¹setting him as a master o- | ver his household, as a ruler over all | his possessions,
²²to instruct his princes according | to his will and to teach his | elders wisdom. ^{45b}Hallelujah! *Refrain*

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Firm a Foundation (796)



Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

A CELTIC CREED

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of people of every color and gender.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken. He descended into the earth to the place of death. On the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present, and His kin-dom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

From the Iona Abbey Worship Book, adapted by Pr. Allison Bengfort.

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.

Trusting that God is with us in every situation, let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

O God, rich in mercy, fill your church with justice, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Empower the baptized by your Spirit to be rich in good works and ready to share. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect the earth and its creatures. Provide water, food, shelter, and favorable habitats, especially for endangered species. Preserve threatened ice caps, glaciers, parks, and beaches. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Increase justice and equity in nations, local governments, and courtrooms. Guide lawyers and those who hold public office to act with compassion and discernment. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Give food to the hungry. Set the captives free. Lift up those who are bowed down. Watch over the stranger. Tend to those who are ill. Stir us to act in the best interest of our neighbors. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Enliven our praise. Inspire musicians, artists, poets, and all who create beauty in this place. God of grace,

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 of grace,	or	Lord, we praise you,
hear our prayer.		Thanks be to God.

Enfold the saints who have died in the arms of your loving care. Grant that the holy angels accompany us and bring us to eternal life with them in the light of your presence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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 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

Grounded in God's covenant, it is our active love that reveals who we worship. As the plate is passed, you are invited to commit to giving of your whole selves. Together, we give of our talents and material resources to the church, with the expectation that they be used to further God's dream for our world.

By Tim Graves, adapted by Pr. Allison Bengfort.

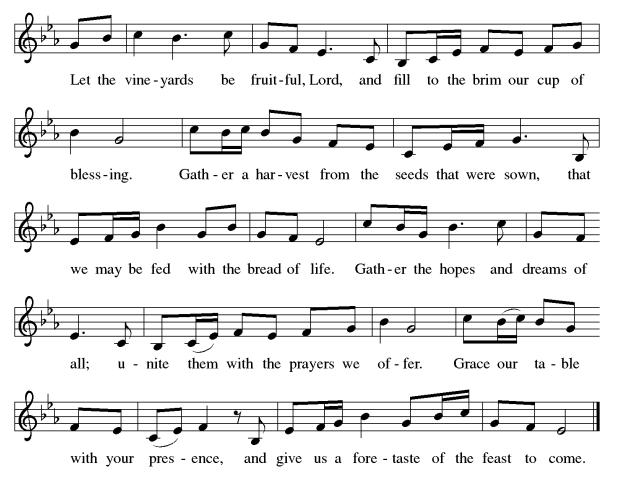
OFFERING

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 ANTHEM

"O Rest in the Lord" from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn



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

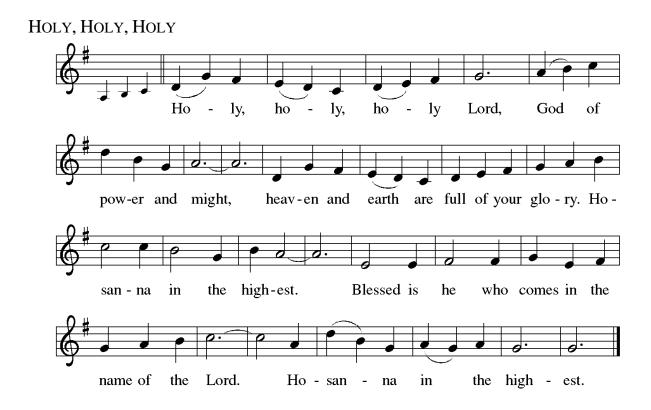
OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also 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



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

God our Mother,	Our Father,
God our Father in heaven,	who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.	hallowed be thy name,
Your kin-dom come,	thy kingdom come,
your will be done,	thy will be done,
on earth as in heaven.	on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.	Give us this day our daily bread;
Forgive us our sins	and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those	as we forgive those
who sin against us.	who trespass against us;
Save us from the time of trial	and lead us not into temptation,
and deliver us from evil.	but deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power,	For thine is the kingdom,
and the glory are yours,	the power, and the glory,
now and forever. Amen.	forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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 glutenfree wafer. Please step forward and then remove your mask to eat in front of the altar. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table next to you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). You may drink and then place the empty glass in the basket. Please re-mask 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 sacrament will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG COMMUNION SONG Come to the Ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread. Come to the ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread. Come to the ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread. All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come, and your souls will be fed. Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail-scarred hand. Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail-scarred hand. Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail-scarred hand. Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb. Tex: Clair Cloimingr. b. 1942 Tex: Clair Cloimingr. b. 1942

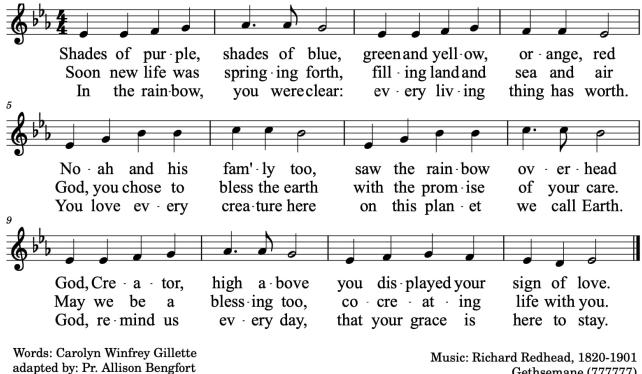
Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956 Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music. Used by permission.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together. God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

+ Sending +

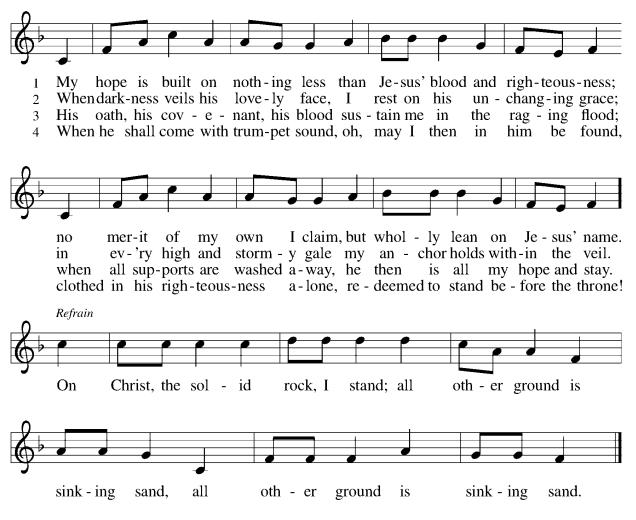
COLORS OF THE COVENANT CHILDREN'S TIME



Gethsemane (777777)

BENEDICTION

God, whose breath enlivens all things, whose promise is everlasting, and whose love overflows to all, bless you with truth and peace, in the name of the Creator, + the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.



Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, confident in Christ's love. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Nachspiel in B"

Adolph Friedrich Hesse

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GoodFest is Coming!

Love good music, good food, and a good cause? We do too! That's why our fundraiser this year will be delivering just that. GoodFest is coming this Saturday, October 1st. It'll feature the local music and BBQ we love (with some special guest musicians), and a portion of the proceeds will go to a cause near and dear to our hearts: Family Promise. In order to help make this fundraiser a success, every household at St. John's is encouraged to buy 10 tickets to sell or give away to friends and family members. Tickets can be purchased at the Eventbrite link in your eNewsletter. Please also share the Eventbrite on Facebook and via email to anyone who might enjoy an evening of good food, good music, and good company. Thank you!

Family Promise at St. John's

St. John's is hosting two families from the Family Promise program for one week beginning today. They will be staying overnight at St. John's and spending the day at the Family Promise Day Center where the adults will receive housing and job search assistance. The children attend their regular schools. The families and some of the Family Promise staff will also be joining us for GoodFest, so please introduce yourself.

Mask Policy Update

Given that Cook County is now at a low COVID transmission level and that the majority of our worshipers are ready to move to masks optional, our Re-Entry Team has decided to lift our mask requirement for in-person worship. This means that all activities at St. John's are now masks optional. The Re-Entry Team will continue to monitor the COVID situation and reinstitute a mask requirement if levels spike. Thanks to those who offered input on this decision!

Truck Needed

One of our families who lives in Wilmette has some awesome furniture to donate for use in the youth room. If you have a truck or know someone who does and would be willing to transport the furniture to St. John's (you do not need to do the lifting, just the driving), please call Jan in the church office to make arrangements.

Youth Choir Continues Today

Continuing today, St. John's is offering a new opportunity for children to participate in a youth choir. Rehearsals are held on Sundays in the sanctuary from 11:00 to 11:30 am, and the group will perform once or twice per season. Any children who enjoy music or singing are encouraged to participate. No experience is required - all are welcome! Please contact the music director, Luke Duroc-Danner, for any questions or to express interest (luke@stjohnswilmette.com).

Adult Forum Today at 11 am

The DVD chosen for this four-week series is "Eternity Is Now In Session" with John Ortberg. Discussion will follow each week, and we'll meet in the conference room next to the Fellowship Hall. There is a poster with additional information in the gathering area. We would love to have you join us. Attendance at all four weeks will not be required to be inspired by each week's presentation.

Confirmation & High School Youth Group

This year, St. John's is joining with other Lutheran churches in the area (Immanuel Evanston, Grace Evanston, St. Timothy's Skokie) for a joint Confirmation program and a Joint High School Youth Group. Both groups have their second meeting today at Immanuel Lutheran in Evanston from 12:30-2 pm. If you

would like to volunteer to help with either of these groups by providing lunch, doing clean-up, or being an assistant, please let Pastor Allison know!

Bible Study

Bible Study has resumed meeting on Tuesdays at 11 am in person at St. John's. All are welcome to join us for prayer, study, and camaraderie.

Support your Church Family by Hosting Coffee Hour

We treasure the time to socialize after worship each Sunday, and we also welcome the opportunity to serve one another. To make coffee hour possible, one or two volunteers are needed to set up coffee, provide treats, and clean up each week. We ask that everyone sign up to host coffee hour at least one Sunday between now and the end of 2022. If you've never done it before, Jan will be happy to teach you. Thank you for your consideration!

CROP Hunger Walk

There are three weeks until the North Shore Virtual CROP Walk, Sunday, October 16th! St. John's has traditionally taken part in this walk as a group when it used to be in-person. This year, you can support the cause by walking any day and donating online to show your commitment to ending hunger in our community and throughout the world. Donations can be made using the link in this week's Enewsletter.

Space Sharing

Centered in the heart of Wilmette, we want to be a home for doing good. St. John's is a place where people can work together comfortably to help create a brighter future for all. Can you help spread the word that we are sharing our space? If you know people who need a space to work, throw a celebration, get married and more, please direct them to our website stjohnswilmette.org or the link provided in your Enewsletter.

Support St. John's through your Online Purchases

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.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STORY

Genesis 39:1-23

¹Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ²God was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that God was with him, and that God caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, God blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of God was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge; and, with him there, he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking. ⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" ¹⁰And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her. ¹¹One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, ¹²she caught hold of his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. ¹³When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, ¹⁴she called out to the members of her household and said to them, "See, my husband has brought among us a Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice; ¹⁵and when he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside." ¹⁶Then she kept his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to insult me; ¹⁸but as soon as I raised my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside."

¹⁹When his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, "This is the way your servant treated me," he became enraged. ²⁰And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison. ²¹But God was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; God gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. ²²The chief jailer committed to Joseph's care all the prisoners who were in the prison, and whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³The chief jailer paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph's care, because God was with him; and whatever he did, God made it prosper.

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