



St. John's of Hatboro

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



Reformation Sunday

Generosity Sunday

October 26, 2025

The Good News for Today: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Thank you for worshiping with us at St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

Please fill out your yellow attendance card and place it in the offering plate when we collect the offering later in the service.

Gathering Music

STAND

Hymn: Praise and Thanksgiving — ELW 689 (Red Book)

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.
- 3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.

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Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

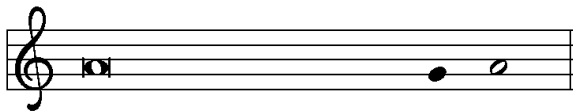
Welcome & Greeting

Welcome to St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

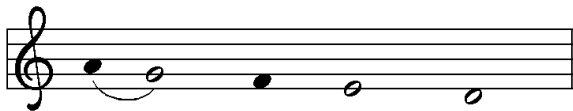
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



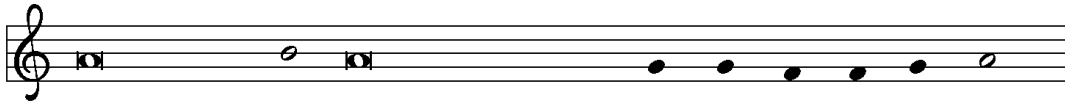
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



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.

Refrain



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... Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SIT

The Readings

Joel 2:23-32

²³ O children of Zion, be glad,
and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.

²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army that I sent against you.

²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁸ Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days I will pour out my spirit.

³⁰ I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. ³² Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65

¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

² **To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³ Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell
there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of
your temple.**

⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous
signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of
God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves
with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

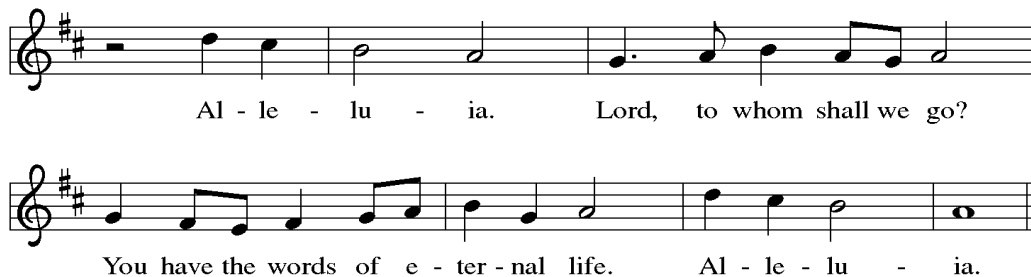
¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

STAND

Gospel Acclamation:



Luke 18:9-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But

the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SIT

Sermon – “A Wildly Generous God” – Pastor Bo Bannister

STAND

Hymn: Build Us Up, Lord – ELW 670 (Red Book)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Build us up, Lord, build us up;
set in us a strong foundation.
Lead us to do your holy will;
form and shape your new creation.
Build us up, Lord, build us up;
as we guide and teach each other,
help us to share your love with the
world:
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother.</p> | <p>to spread the news of your Son!</p> <p>2 Build us up, Lord, build us up;
let our lives reflect your glory.
Cast away all our doubts and fears;
help us tell the world your story.
Build us up, Lord, build us up;
help us bear good fruit for you,
Lord, give us vision and keep us sure.
Grant us faith that's steadfast and
true. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|---|

Refrain

Growing in Christ, we plant seeds for
the kingdom;
we follow in faith what's begun!
Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of
your word

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

The Apostles' Creed

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 Intercession

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Uniting God, you draw your church together as the one body of Christ. Bring congregations into conversation and dialogue so the church is transformed and reformed in your abundant grace. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Sustaining God, you create all the beauty around us. We give you thanks for the harvest of your creation. Restore creation as the seasons change. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Governing God, you bring peace and justice through mercy. Guide judges, lawmakers, attorneys, and those in any authority to act with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Healing God, you comfort those who suffer. Console people whose lives are disrupted by cancer, disease, and illness. Bring your healing mercy to any in need. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Proclaiming God, you gift the church proclamation through music. We thank you for Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt, whom we commemorate today and all music ministers of this congregation. Transform your church through the musical arts. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Resurrecting God, you crown your beloved children with righteousness. We thank you for those who have died in faith, fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

SIT

Announcements

Printed copies of our weekly announcements are available at the usher's stand in the Narthex, and monthly newsletters are on the Hospitality Table. Please include your email address on your yellow attendance card to receive announcements electronically.

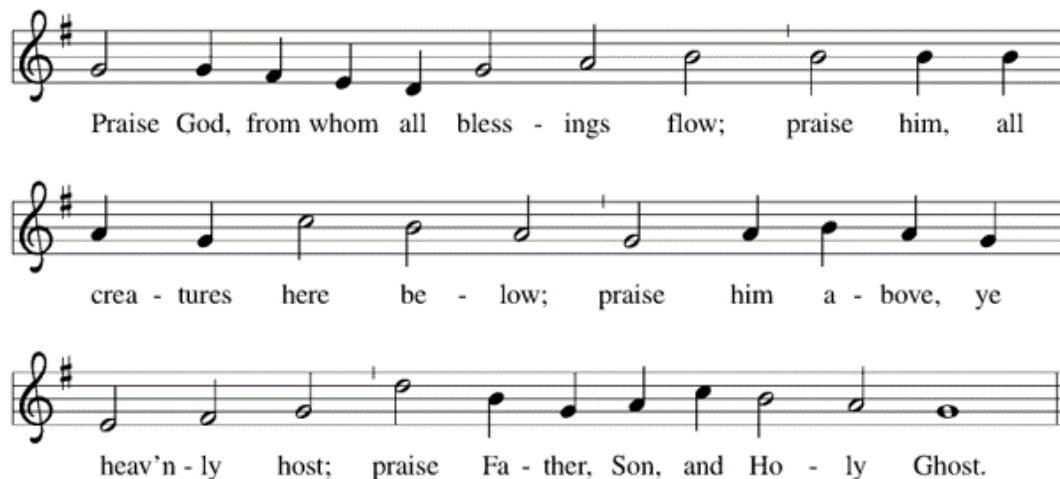
Children's Message

Offering

Offertory: "Gratitude" – Brandon Lake

STAND

Offertory Hymn: Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (ELW 885 / Red Book)



Offering Prayer

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

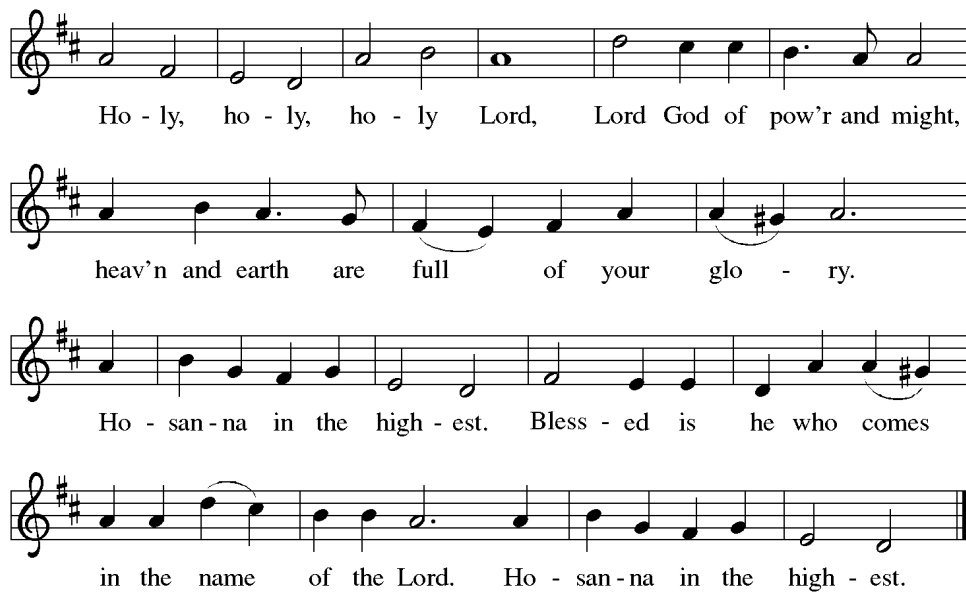
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, God, for the great day of salvation prepared from the beginning, when Christ, though rejected on earth, will be lauded as Lord of all. We bless you for Christ who carried sin's destructive powers to the cross that all might be set free. Through Christ you inspire in us the hope that forces of darkness will be scattered, and that you are making all things new.

Just as prophets long before Christ spoke of the sufferings that would be his, so Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine, and having given thanks for it, he gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we reenact your Word of Love dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May the fire of your love animate our flesh. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

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.

SIT

Invitation to Communion

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Distribution of the Elements

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

STAND

Post-Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you keep you in his Grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God — ELW 504 (Red Book)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's
rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal. | 3 | Though hordes of devils fill the
land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we
stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him. |
| 2 | No strength of ours can match his
might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to
fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious. | 4 | God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever! |

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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