



**St. John's of Hatboro**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

### *The Feast of St. Bartholomew*

August 24, 2025

*The Good News for Today: You're not too old, you're not too young, you're not too mid for God to use you.*

*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: Morning Has Broken – ELW 556 (Red Book)

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

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## Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**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.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... Almighty and everlasting God, you gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and courageously to preach your word. Grant that your church may proclaim the good news to the ends of the earth, 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

### Jeremiah 1:4-10

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the Lord.”

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 71:1-6 (Read Responsively)

<sup>1</sup> In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup> **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;  
incline your ear to me and save me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;  
you are my crag and my stronghold.

<sup>4</sup> **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> For you are my hope, O Lord God,  
my confidence since I was young.

<sup>6</sup> **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother’s  
womb you have been my strength;  
my praise shall be always of you.**

## Hebrews 12:18-29

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.”) <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we

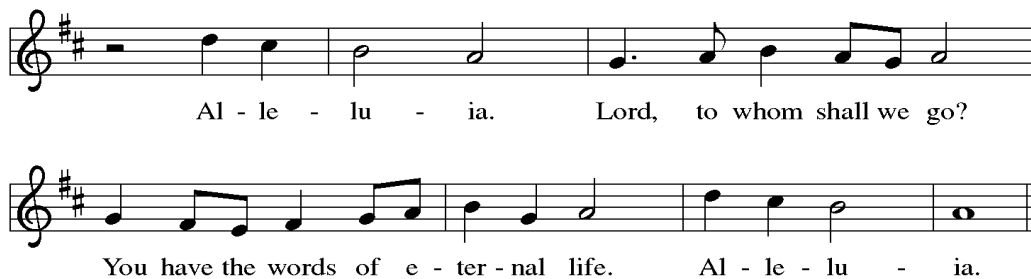
reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” <sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

*STAND*

## Gospel Acclamation:



## John 1:43-51

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” <sup>49</sup> Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*SIT*

## Sermon – “Under the Fig Tree” – Pastor Bo Bannister

STAND

### Hymn: Making Their Way – ACS 979



1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have  
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble  
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,  
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,  
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,  
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,  
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.  
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.  
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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## 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

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. For all bishops, pastors, deacons, and other ministers. For those who travel far from home in mission and service. Strengthen those who respond your call to ministry, and grant wisdom to all who shepherd your people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the creation. For wilderness areas, local parks, and community gardens. For fields and forests, canyons and rivers. For olive groves and pastures, farms and vineyards. Bless those who harvest crops and all whose labor brings food to our tables. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern the nations. For our elected officials, local leaders, and all public servants. Inspire them to use their power with honor and integrity. Bring an end to prejudice, violence, and injustice. Strengthen all who work for peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those in need. For all who are overlooked or belittled because of their background. For those who suffer for the sake of conscience. For those who grieve, and for all who are ill. Bring them comfort, healing, and hope. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. For those struggling with doubts and for those seeking purpose and direction in life. For teachers, youth workers, counselors, and mentors. As you have called us to follow you, send us out to share the good news. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember Bartholomew and all who have gone before us in the faith. Inspire us by their witness and bring us at last to feast with you at the heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and 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

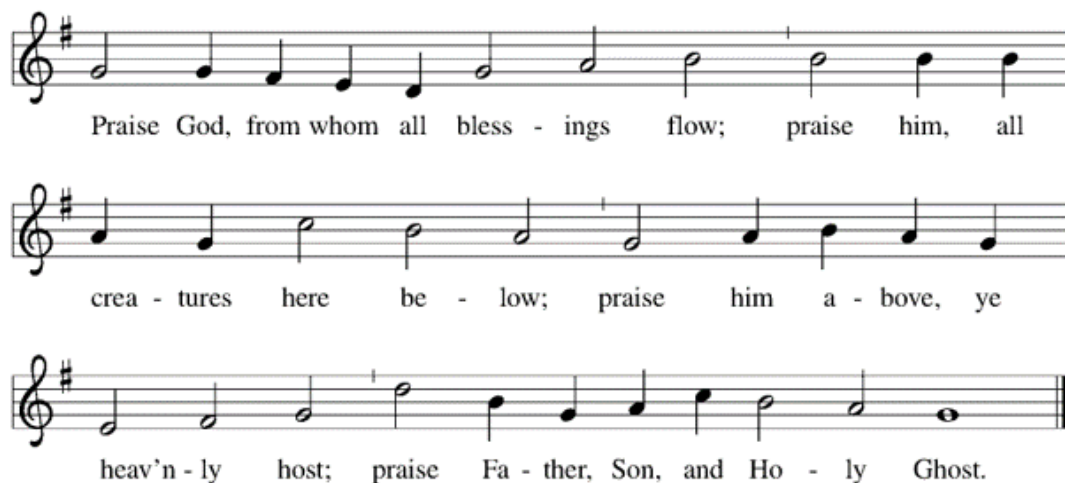
*Printed copies of our weekly announcements are available at the usher's stand in the Narthex, and monthly newsletters are on the Hospitality Table. Please include your email address on your yellow attendance card to receive announcements electronically.*

## Blessing for Virtual Worshipers

## Offering

*STAND*

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



## Offering Prayer

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

# Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

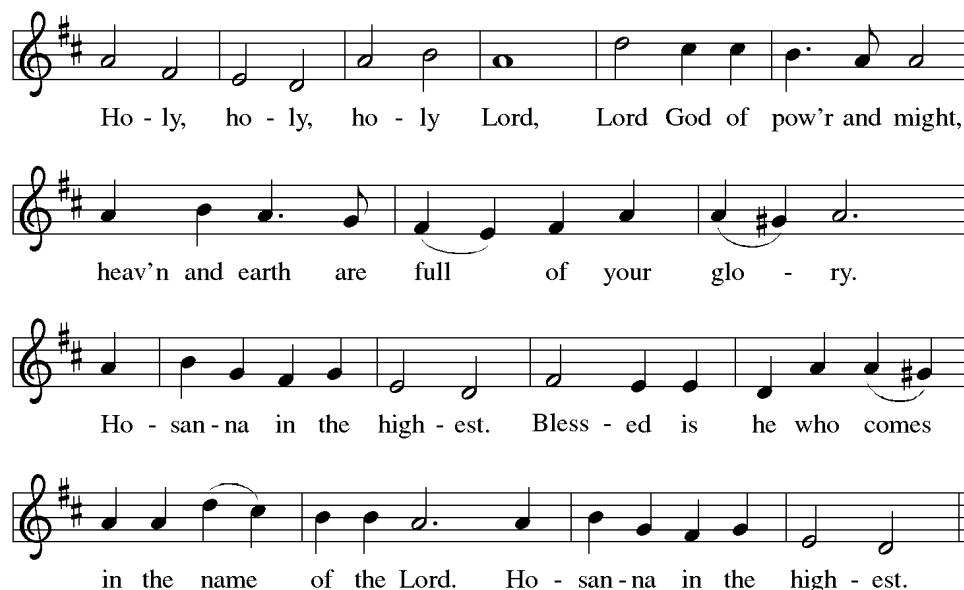
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus



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.

## Eucharistic Prayer

We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our lover, our keeper, for the universe beyond our knowing, for lands and seas and all their animals, and for friends and strangers and family, for homes and grocery stores and schools. We praise you for your covenant people, for Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, for Elijah and all the prophets, and for centuries of faithful Christians, for Mary and Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul. We praise you for your Son Jesus Christ, who saves us from sin and from evil, who on the night before he died took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.



Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both 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

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

## 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

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing – ELW 886 (Red Book)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing<br>my great Redeemer's praise,<br>the glories of my God and King,<br>the triumphs of his grace!          | 4 | He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,<br>new life the dead receive;<br>the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,<br>the humble poor believe. |
| 2 | My gracious Master and my God,<br>assist me to proclaim,<br>to spread through all the earth abroad<br>the honors of your name.              | 5 | Look unto him, your Savior own,<br>O fallen human race!<br>Look and be saved through faith alone,<br>be justified by grace!              |
| 3 | The name of Jesus charms our fears<br>and bids our sorrows cease,<br>sings music in the sinner's ears,<br>brings life and health and peace. | 6 | To God all glory, praise, and love<br>be now and ever giv'n<br>by saints below and saints above,<br>the church in earth and heav'n.      |

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

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