



**St. John's of Hatboro**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



## Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025

*The Good News for Today: Jesus rescues us from being defeated by our own contradictions.*

*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: Lead Me, Guide Me – ELW 768 (Red Book)**

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
to help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy light to see.  
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

Text: Doris Akers

Music: Doris Akers; arr. Richard Smallwood

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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... Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*SIT*

## The Readings

### Hosea 11:1-11

<sup>1</sup> "When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.

<sup>2</sup> The more I called them,  
the more they went from me;

they kept sacrificing to the Baals  
and offering incense to idols.

<sup>3</sup> Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;  
I took them up in my arms,  
but they did not know that I healed them.

<sup>4</sup> I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with bands of love.  
I was to them like those  
who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed them.

<sup>5</sup> They shall return to the land of Egypt,  
and Assyria shall be their king,  
because they have refused to return to me.

<sup>6</sup> The sword rages in their cities;  
it consumes their oracle priests  
and devours because of their schemes.

<sup>7</sup> My people are bent on turning away from me.  
To the Most High they call,  
but he does not raise them up at all.

<sup>8</sup> How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?  
How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?  
My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.

<sup>9</sup> I will not execute my fierce anger;  
I will not again destroy Ephraim,  
for I am God and no mortal,  
the Holy One in your midst,  
and I will not come in wrath.

<sup>10</sup> They shall go after the Lord,  
who roars like a lion;  
when he roars,  
his children shall come trembling from the west.

<sup>11</sup> They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt  
and like doves from the land of Assyria,  
and I will return them to their homes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 107:1-9, 43

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

- <sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
- <sup>3</sup> gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- <sup>4</sup> Some wandered in desert wastes;  
they found no path to a city where they might dwell.**
- <sup>5</sup> They were hungry and thirsty;  
their spirits languished within them.
- <sup>6</sup> Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord,  
and you delivered them from their distress.**
- <sup>7</sup> You led them on a straight path  
to go to a city where they might dwell.
- <sup>8</sup> Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**
- <sup>9</sup> For you satisfy the thirsty soul  
and fill the hungry with good things.
- <sup>43</sup> Whoever is wise will ponder these things,  
and consider well the Lord's steadfast love.**

## Colossians 3:1-11

<sup>1</sup> So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

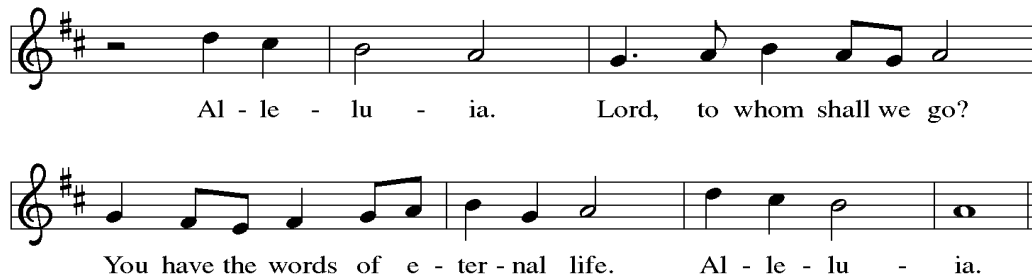
<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup> In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

*STAND*

## Gospel Acclamation:



## Luke 12:13-21

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

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*SIT*

Sermon – “The Astley Paradox” – Pastor Bo Bannister

*STAND*

## Hymn: O God, Who Gives Us Life – ACS 1086



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,  
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear. Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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

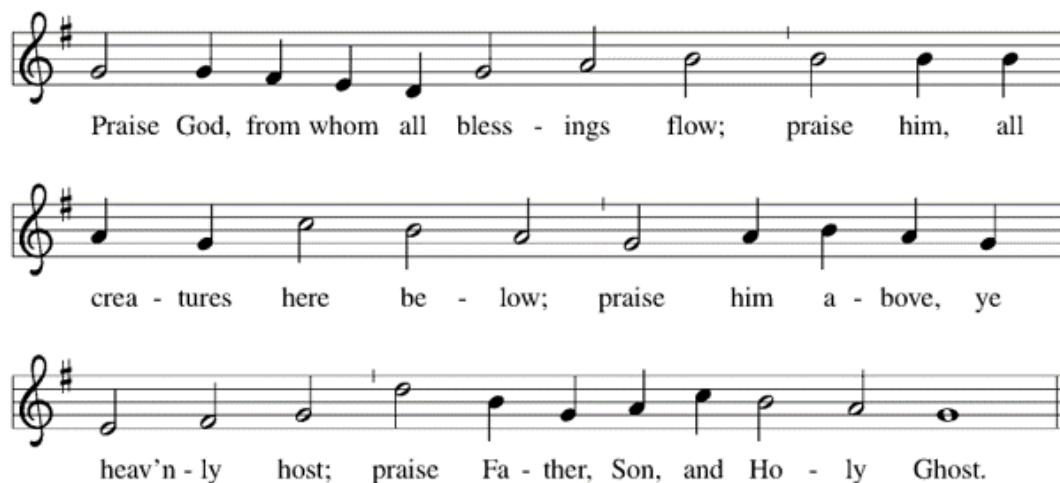
*Printed copies of our weekly announcements are available at the usher's stand in the Narthex, and monthly newsletters are on the Hospitality Table. Please include your email address on your yellow attendance card to receive announcements electronically.*

## 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.

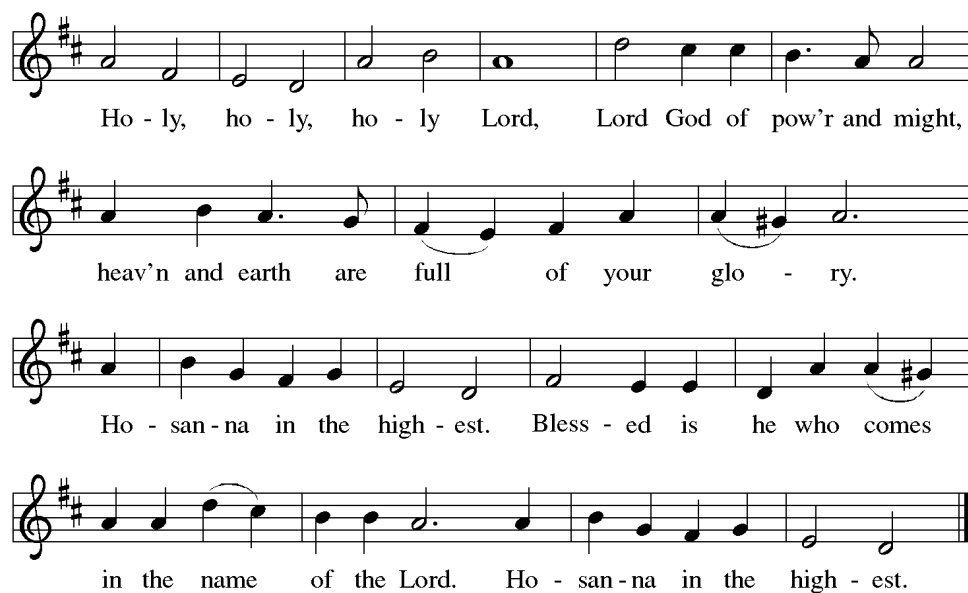
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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: Break Now the Bread of Life — ELW 515 (Red Book)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Break now the bread of life,<br>dear Lord, to me,<br>as once you broke the loaves<br>beside the sea.<br>Beyond the sacred page<br>I seek you, Lord;<br>my spirit waits for you,<br>O living Word.        | 3 You are the bread of life,<br>dear Lord, to me,<br>your holy word the truth that<br>rescues me.<br>Give me to eat and live<br>with you above;<br>teach me to love your truth,<br>for you are love. |
| 2 Bless your own word of truth,<br>dear Lord, to me,<br>as when you blessed the bread by<br>Galilee.<br>Then shall all bondage cease,<br>all fetters fall;<br>and I shall find my peace,<br>my All-in-All! |  |

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

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