St. John's of Hatboro
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faith - Service - Community

Twenty-First Saturday after Pentecost

Feast of St. Luke

October 17, 2026

The Good News for Today: The only trap from which we cannot escape is divine love.

Thank you for worshiping with us at St. John's. Please fill out your yellow attendance card and place it in the offering plate when we collect the offering later in the service.

Today's first reading describes God calling Israel to the witness stand to testify to the fact that God alone is the true God. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Gathering Music

STAND

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.

May 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.

Hymn: Take My Life, That I May Be – ELW 583 (Red Book)

Refrain
Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

1 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*

2 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
Refrain

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.
Refrain

4 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain*

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, adap.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875-1955

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✠ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.

Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

SIT

Isaiah 43:8-13

Set in the framework of a court of law, this poem describes God calling Israel to the witness stand to testify to the fact that God alone is the true God.

8 Bring forth the people who are blind yet have eyes,
  who are deaf yet have ears!
9 Let all the nations gather together,
  and let the peoples assemble.
Who among them declared this
  and foretold to us the former things?
Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,
  and let them hear and say, "It is true."
10 You are my witnesses, says the Lord,
  and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
  and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
  nor shall there be any after me.
11 I, I am the Lord,
  and besides me there is no savior.
12 I am the one who declared and saved and proclaimed,
  not some strange god among you;
  you are my witnesses, says the Lord, and I am God.
13 Indeed, since that day I am he;
  there is no one who can deliver from my hand;
  I work, and who can hinder it?

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

2 Timothy 4:5-18

Knowing that death draws near, Paul, a prisoner in Rome, closes his letter to Timothy in a way that exemplifies how Christians face death: thankful for the grace to finish the race and trusting in the final blessing that awaits him in Christ.

5 As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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.

9 Do your best to come to me soon, **10** for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. **11** Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me in ministry. **12** I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. **13** When you come, bring the cloak that I

left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. 14 Alexander the
coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. 15 You also
must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message.

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 – ELW p. 151 (Red Book)

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16 So they sent
their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are
sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no
one, for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it
lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are
you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And
they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose
title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the
things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this,
they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SIT

Sermon – "He Could See It Coming Even Before Admiral Akbar"– Pastor Bo Bannister

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray… Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

STAND

Hymn: You Are My Hiding Place – W&P 160 (Purple Book)

1 You are my hiding place;
you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.
Whenever I am afraid I will trust in you,
I will trust in you.
Let the weak say,
"I am strong in the strength of the Lord."

2 You are my hiding place;
you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance.
Whenever I am afraid I will trust in you,
I will trust in you.
Let the weak say,
"I am strong in the strength of the Lord,
I will trust in you."

Text and music: Michael Ledner
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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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember Luke and all who have gone before us in the faith. Inspire us by their witness and bring us, together with them, to your heavenly banquet to feast with you in paradise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; 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.

Offering

STAND

Offertory Hymn: Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

– ELW 884 (Red Book)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

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.

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us – even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his life, death, and resurrection opened up to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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.

Let is proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Therefore, God, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving passion of your Son, his wondrous resurrection and ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his coming again, we thank you for this holy and living sacrifice, through whom you willed to reconcile us to yourself. Grant that we who are nourished by the body and blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit may become one body, one spirit in Christ, who taught us to pray:

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

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Blessing

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn: On Eagle's Wings – W&P 110 (Purple Book)

1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
who abide in this shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge,
my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain
And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand.

2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
and famine will bring you no fear;
under his wings your refuge,
his faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

4 For to his angels he's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways;
upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Final refrain
And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand;
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text and music: Michael Joncas
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Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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