



Seventeenth Sunday
after Pentecost
September 24, 2023



A HEARTY welcome to all! If you are visiting this morning, please take a moment to sign the guest register at the entrance. We invite you to worship with us, learn about our life in Christ, and consider this congregation for your church home. You are welcome to speak with Pastor Bob Schmitt about membership.



CHILDREN'S BULLETINS, Bible storybooks, crayons, and coloring books are available in the back of the church for young

children to use during the service. Parents and guardians are encouraged to help their children select age-appropriate books and materials. At St. John, all children are valued and nurtured, and we are committed to helping them learn to worship. They may not always understand what is going on or being said, but they can understand this is a place where they are loved, accepted, and needed.



PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S LITURGY:

MINISTERS: The People of St. John

PRESIDING MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. K. Robert Schmitt

ASSISTING MINISTER: David Horst, Jr.

LECTOR: Dennis Schell

CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE: Eddy Mei

USHERS: Ray Yost, Hal Baesch, Dennis Schell, and Stan Sieradzki

ORGANIST: Drew Taliaferro

ALTAR GUILD: Leslie and Dennis Schell



THE BREAD, wine, and candles are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Hilda R. Sieradzki, our mother and grandmother, on the anniversary of her death, September 29, 2010, by Stan and Fran Sieradzki and Mollie Blum.



EVERYONE IS cordially invited to enjoy coffee hour in the downstairs social hall right after this service. Many thanks to all who have brought refreshments to share.



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROOKLYN

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE WELCOME PLACE ... THE CHURCH THAT CARES

WORSHIPING AND SERVING IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1916

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THE REV. DR. K. ROBERT SCHMITT, *Pastor*

Doris Anderson, *Ministry Assistant*

Drew Taliaferro, *Director of Music*

Michael McFarland, *Deacon*

The Rev. Joseph P. Lettrich, *Pastor Emeritus*

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 24, 2023

9:00 a.m.

P = Presiding Minister

C = Congregation

A = Assisting Minister

L = Lector

**Please note: If standing or kneeling is difficult for you,
please feel comfortable remaining seated during the service.**

**Ushers are available to provide directions
or offer other assistance; they are wearing pocket badges.**

*Bless us, O God,
with a reverent sense of your presence,
that we may be at peace and may worship you
with all our mind and spirit;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

MATTHEW NARRATES ONE OF JESUS' CONTROVERSIAL parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

GATHERING

8:50

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

☩ Let us now listen to our church bells and prelude to help us enter the spirit of prayer, thanksgiving, and praise. "Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, The LORD is king!" (Psalm 96:9-10)

RINGING OF CHURCH BELLS

PRELUDE

Handbells: "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty" arr. Kristine Johaneck

Time of silence for prayer and meditation.

*Please stand, as you are able, and face the pastor
in the back of the church.*

9:00

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

☩ Blessed be God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the one who forms us,
✝ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

☩ Amen.

P Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

C you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed

by the world's violence and suffering.

**We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

Lead us back to you

and set us on the right path;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

P Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In **+** Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG 688 ELW(red book)

“Lord of Light”

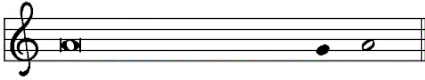
Stanzas 1, 2, and 4

GREETING

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

C 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.



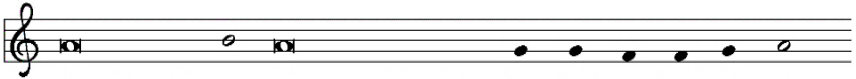
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P Let us pray together.

C Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

L A reading from Jonah..

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

⁴¹But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and

asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

℣ This is the Word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

Spoken responsively.

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

℣ A reading from Philippians.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart

and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

P The holy gospel, according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever

is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S TIME AND SERMON The Rev. Dr. K. Robert Schmitt

Silence for reflection.

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY 695 ELW (red book)

“As Saints of Old”

All Stanzas

APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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

A Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

A God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Especially, inspire and guide our bishops, Elizabeth and William, our pastor Robert, our deacon Michael, and our pastor emeritus Joseph. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Especially, help us to care for our community, Maryland farmlands, Eastern Shore, Chesapeake Bay, Baltimore harbor, and Masonville Cove. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy, especially those on our prayer list and those we name in our hearts. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you.

R Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering plate can be found in the back of the church.

ANTHEM

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Temple/Hayes

Please stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray together.

C God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

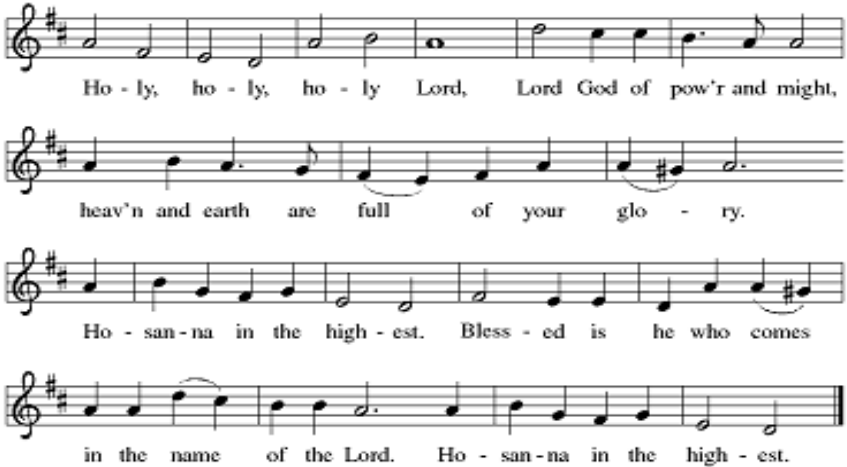
DIALOG



PREFACE

☐ It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Creator, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

☐ We praise and thank you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In giving your only begotten Son for the sins of the world
you revealed your mercy to us,
promising that whoever believes in him will not perish,
but will be given life and salvation.

We give thanks for this grace and redemption prepared for us in
Jesus Christ.

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.

P Do this for the remembrance of me.

With the whole creation, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P Therefore, heavenly Father, we celebrate this holy communion, remembering before you the passion and death, the resurrection and ascension of your dear Son.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim Christ's death until he comes in power and great glory.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Let your Holy Spirit breathe peace among us, that our hearts may be enlightened with a living faith; by that same Spirit, now bless this bread and wine, which earth has given, and human hands have made; we offer these gifts to you, that through them we may receive the true body **+** and blood **+** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Remember, O Lord, in your great love the perfect and eternal sacrifice through which, in Christ, you have reconciled us with yourself. Unite us in one body, that we may be a perfect living sacrifice in Christ.

C **Through him, and with him, and in him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever. Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God has prepared a table before you. (Psalm 23:5)

C **Goodness and mercy shall follow me this day.** (Psalm 23:6)

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All the faithful are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Please come forward by the center aisle and return by a side aisle. If walking to communion is a problem, please stand in place; the bread and wine will be brought to you. Please sign a communion card and hand it to an usher. Ushers are wearing pocket badges. Adults and children who are not communing today are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor. Individual pre-poured cups of dealcoholized wine are available in the trays for those who do not wish to drink alcohol.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ELW Hymn 765 “Lord of All Hopefulness”

After all have communed, please stand.

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION HYMN 840 ELW (red book)

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Stanza 1

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray together.

C Blessed be your name, O God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of glory,
† Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG 668 ELW (red book)

“O Zion, Haste”

All Stanzas

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



HOSPITALIZED/PRAYER LIST AS OF SEPTEMBER 20:

Please surround those named below, and all who hold them dear, with your prayers for God's healing and wholeness. **You are kindly asked to phone or email the church office to request prayers, report any errors or omissions, and provide updates.**

St. John, Brooklyn:

Emily Eiermann is at Autumn Lake Healthcare at Waugh Chapel, 1221 Waugh Chapel Road Room 112, Gambrills, MD 21059.

Please pray for **Steven Isaac** and **Ty and Sandy Isaac, Diana Beecher, Doris Anderson, Stephanie Haigis, Claudia Hickman, Michele Huggins, Remie Danielson, Ray Yost, Catherine Bacot, Patricia Kirby, Jim Horst, Laurie Anderson, Sidney Ford, Lillie Rhoades, Angie and Don Smith, Marie Pledger, Pat Dearing, George (Al) Mangerino, Shirley Quaskey, Ginny Yost, Susan Brown, Carol Fehrmann, Jerald Lulie, and Holly Kinstler.** Continue praying for **F. Marie Jacobs, Geraldine (Jerri) Mooney, Dorothy Trott, Catherine Brecht, Bev Schweitzer, and Nancy Squires.**

Dennis Schell requests prayers for **Paul Fitzgerald**, his college friend. Please also pray for **Devan Schell**, his great-nephew, who has suffered a spinal cord injury as a result of a diving accident; **Devan** has had additional back surgery. Pastor Schmitt requests prayers for his brother-in-law, **Kevin Hackett**, recently diagnosed with cancer.

Randy Hart is at home, recovering from a fractured femur. Please pray for **Dolores Biemiller**, mother of **Lisa Hart. Travis Wright**, son-in-law of Randy and Lisa, has recently been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Kindly pray for **Russell Trosterud**, grandson-in-law of Claudia Hickman, who was recently severely injured in a mountain biking accident. Claudia also asks you to pray for Russ' wife Jessica and their entire family. You may send cards to **Russell Trosterud, 1401 Porter Street, Baltimore, MD 21230.**

Doris Burkman is at Morningside House of Friendship, 7548 Old Telegraph Road Room 202, Hanover, MD 21076; phone 410.766.9189. **Henry Fischer's** new address is Brightview Senior Living, 469 Jumpers Hole Road Room 24, Severna Park, Md 21146.

Rose Macknovitz is living at 634 Jasontown Road, Westminster, MD 21158. Her son, **Mark Macknovitz**, is at Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403. **Patricia Isaac** is at Complete Care at Severna Park, 310 Genesis Way Room F12A, Severna Park, MD 21146-1762. Angie Smith asks for prayers the loved ones of her good friend from school, **Jeanie Bowen** who has recently died; and for her niece, **Jennifer Weaver and her three young children, Justin, Casen, and Alexandria**, as they mourn the sudden death of **Zack Weaver**, their husband and father.

Remember in prayer **Shirley Kuchera and Penny Ericson**, dear friends of Fran Sieradzki. Please pray for **Mary Peters**, Claudia Hickman's friend and neighbor; and for **Frances Cornish and her family**. Please also pray for former members **Janet and Bill (Skip) Burkman**. Kathy Riley requests prayers for her stepdaughter, **Michelle Smith**, diagnosed with a heart condition; for **Tim Mauritzen**, son of Kathy's dear friend Joan, struggling with kidney disease; for **Carol Szlechtka** recovering from COVID-19 at home; and for **Wanda Conway**.

Grace Planalp requests prayers for **Sandy Kohlway**. Adeline Lang asks for prayers for her nephew, **David Lang**. Please pray for **Katie McNey**, the twin sister of Holly Kinstler's daughter-in-law. Holly also requests prayers for her cousins, **Kim Meyer and Barry Martin**, and for **Brian Eigenbrode**.

Brittany Danielson asks you to pray for **Jack Norris**. Kathy Harris requests your prayers for **Wayne Watson**, undergoing another round of cancer treatment. Ruth Lambert asks for prayers for her son, **Anthony Nelson**. Prayers are requested for **Tony Morris**, husband of Connie and father of Hunter and Camryn. Please pray for **Andrea**, neighbor of Floyd Musk.

Marie Pledger asks for prayers for her friend, **David John Leimbach**. Remember in prayer **Thomas (Tommy) Kelch**, husband of Karen Rainey Kelch. Lillie Rhoades asks for special prayers for **Diane Hogan**; Diane is the sister of Lisa Smith, Lillie's daughter-in-law. Catherine Bacot requests prayers for **Marshall Bacot, Charles Mercer, Sr., Charles Mercer, Jr., Catherine Mercer, John Mercer, Ellen Hohman, Bill Hohman, and Keith and Diane Crizer**.

Holly Hatfield asks for prayers for **Kathy and Nick Spurlock**, her aunt and uncle. Kindly pray for Shirley Quaskey's granddaughter, **Kara**, who is serving on a three-year mission trip to the Middle East. Please pray for Carol Fehrmann's sister, **Deborah Farrow Beall**, and for Carol's nephew, **Zachary Curry**. Please pray for Monette Obzut's cousins, **Suzanne Carroll and Carol Iafrate**, and for **Sharon Dillon, Len and Diane Z., and George and Becky Young.**

Sue Calvert asks you to pray for **Harry McCrory**, husband of Jan McCrory, and for Jan's friend, **Maria Tydings**. Please pray for Laura Taliaferro's good friend, **Jourdan Davis**. Kindly remember in prayer

Denise McCumbers' sister, **Darlene**, receiving cancer treatment. Susan Brown asks that you pray for her niece, **Beth B. Bowie**.

St. Paul's, Curtis Bay:

Henrietta Bond continues to recover from surgery. Prayers are requested for **Terri Otes, Louise Amrhein, Jeanette Johnson, David Deibel, Tony Amrhein, Annie Lutz, June Coughlin, Amy Stroh Purdy, Mary Strachan, George and Wendy Kester, and George Lang.**



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,

September 24

9:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School, Coffee Hour, Handbells

MONDAY, September 25

12:00 noon – Alcoholics Anonymous

6:30 p.m. – Concerned Citizens for a Better Brooklyn

TUESDAY, September 26

7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, September 27

12:00 noon – Alcoholics Anonymous

THURSDAY, September 28

10:00 a.m. – Community Meal and Clothing Closet

SATURDAY, September 30

9:00 a.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

7:30 p.m. – Alcoholics Anonymous

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST,

October 1

9:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School, Coffee Hour, Handbells

1:00 p.m. – Pet Blessing



SOUR BEEF DINNER UPDATE
FROM KATHY TALIAFERRO:

Plans for the annual Sour Beef/Roast Beef Dinner, which will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, are currently underway. This year, we will be offering eat-in dining as well as carry-out meals. For carry-outs, we are asking that you order your meals in advance by using one of the carry-out order forms. This year, we will also be bringing back the popular Gift Card Tree Raffle as well as raffle baskets and a handmade afghan raffle. Gift cards from restaurants and retail stores are needed for the Gift Card Tree Raffle. Please contact me (410.215.0936) if you would like to donate a gift card, make a donation for the raffle baskets, or help with the dinner in any way.

◆◆◆

COPIES OF the weekly newsletter are available at the back of the church.

◆◆◆

LAST WEEK'S FIGURES:

ATTENDANCE: 41

OFFERING:

CATEGORY/FUND	AMOUNT
General offering	\$494.00
Mortgage/building fund	170.00
Mortgage principal	89.00
Pantry fund	5.00
God's Global Barnyard	50.00
Slate roof repairs	100.00
Sour beef dinner	44.00
TOTAL	\$952.00

**St. John Lutheran Church,
Brooklyn, Baltimore, Maryland**



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS



MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

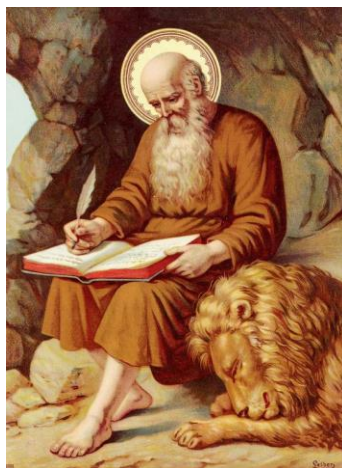
Friday, September 29, 2023

Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word “angel” means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

JEROME, TRANSLATOR, TEACHER, DIED 420

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.



✂ Clip and save. Share it with your family.

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

PASTOR BOB SCHMITT

can be reached at **410.746.0236**
or k.robert.schmitt@comcast.net.

God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of a difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.

\$500



Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein rich meals for families who are hungry.

\$10



Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.

\$50



Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth – helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.

\$20



Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds – bringing a big payoff at the market.

\$30



Fish Farm

A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meals for a community.

\$250



Oxen and plow

A pair of oxen will help create record-breaking harvests, provide natural fertilizer for the fields and give families the gift of time.

\$1,000

COORDINATOR FRAN Sieradzki reminds everyone that it's time to turn in your **piggy or barn bank** so that the **Sunday school children** can **select animals** from the **ELCA's God's Global Barnyard** to order this fall. For more information about this wonderful ministry, please speak directly to Fran.

DAILY BREAD FOR EVERYONE

WE ALL HAVE A NATURAL SENSE OF JUSTICE, and of what is fair. We might easily conflate the two, but justice and fairness don't always lead to the same end. Jesus' parable of the landowner and the workers suggests that God's sense of justice might not seem fair to everyone. Our ideas of what is right are likely upended by the landowner's generosity. He gives to each worker not what they have earned but rather the "daily bread" they need.



Sometimes in the church's ministry, we behave in a spirit exactly opposite that of the parable's landowner, opting to be "fair" above all else. So, for example, the food pantry can insist on the same items in the same amount for everyone, or the soup kitchen rules dictate that everyone get the same thing on their tray. Yet everyone doesn't always have the same needs. What if instead of fairness, we also made a way for generosity to sometimes disrupt the rules? There are good reasons for insisting on fairness. Rules establish helpful boundaries. Fairness can help ensure that when resources are scarce, everyone has a chance to receive something. Yet, in the name of fairness, we can also overlook both God's abundant generosity and the actual needs of others.

Maybe Jesus' parable doesn't mean changing the rules altogether. But maybe it means leaving ample space for those situations in which emulating God's generosity means bending the rules. God's grace frees us from a stubborn insistence on "only what's fair" so that we can care for others with generous spirits. No matter when we come to the baptismal waters, God's word of grace is enough to cover our sins. No matter our circumstances when we are gathered at Christ's table, God's generosity means there is always enough for each and every one of us to receive the daily bread we need.

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