



**Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Saturday, September 28, 2024 5:00 PM
Pentecost 19 * Blanket Ministry Weekend**

GATHERING ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITANY FOR BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

L: God, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Send forth your Spirit today as we call upon you to bless our work and make it holy. Help these quilts and kits, our offerings of hope, travel across the furthest distances to reach our most weary neighbors and surround them with your grace and peace.

C: JESUS, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

L: God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of your faithful promise, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

C: JESUS, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

L: God, we give thanks for all those who have taken part in creating these quilts and kits. May you guide us to greater empathy for our neighbors in crisis, for the mothers that struggle to feed their hungry children, for the fearful, the anxious, the isolated. May these quilts and kits provide comfort and relief to those who are downtrodden around the world.

C: JESUS, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

L: God, be with those who will receive these gifts — neighbors we have never met, neighbors who are far away, neighbors who, like us, long for your grace and mercy. May the work crafted from our humble hands serve as a beacon of light and hope to those who are desolate and hopeless and fill them with the peace that is only found in you.

C: JESUS, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

L: We thank you for this ministry of service, for the opportunity to comfort those in their darkest hours, to remind our neighbors in Christ of your loving presence. Bring us ever closer to your heart and our neighbors in need throughout the world. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the one who is our hope. **C: AMEN.**

OPENING SONG

Hosanna

Hosanna ... Hosanna ... Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna ... Hosanna ... Hosanna in the highest,
Lord, we lift up Your name, with hearts full of praise,
Be exalted oh Lord, my God, Hosanna in the highest.

Glory ... Glory ... Glory to the King of Kings,
Glory ... Glory ... Glory to the King of Kings,

Lord, we lift up Your name, With hearts full of praise,
Be exalted oh Lord, my God, Glory to the King of Kings.

Hosanna ... Hosanna ... Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna ... Hosanna ... Hosanna in the highest,

Lord, we lift up Your name, with hearts full of praise,
Be exalted oh Lord, my God, Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna ... Hosanna ... Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna ... Hosanna ... Hosanna in the highest,

Lord, we lift up Your name, with hearts full of praise,
Be exalted oh Lord, my God, Hosanna in the highest.

Lord we lift up your name, With hearts full of praise,
Be exalted oh Lord, my God, Hosanna, in the highest.

Be exalted oh Lord, my God, Hosanna, in the highest

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us.

We admit that while we've spoken words of praise, we have also hurt others with the things we say. The struggles within us lead to conflicts and disagreements. In our desire to come out on top, we end up creating divisions. We often overlook the needs of those who are poor or suffering and seek only what is best for us. Please forgive us. Come close to us with your grace when we need it most, and guide us to follow the path of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: God promises to forgive our iniquity and remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the one who brings everlasting healing, your sins are forgiven. **ALL: Amen**

FIRST READING

Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29

⁴The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

¹⁰Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you

promised on oath to their ancestors?' ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery." ¹⁶So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

SECOND READING

James 5:13-20

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought

back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to [Jesus], "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. ⁴²If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**All: I believe in God, who has created all life
and continues to create new life within me.**

**I believe in Jesus, son of God, son of man,
the Savior of the world.**

**By his life, his death and his resurrection from the grave,
I can know the true depth of human possibility
and experience the true joy of abundant life.**

**I believe the Holy Spirit is present now and always,
calling me to faith, giving me gifts for ministry,
and empowering me for service.**

**I believe the church is the body of Christ,
a community of faith called
to experience the fullness of life
through God's Word made flesh
in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

L: We pray for the people of God in all places. Shape our witness to the good news of Jesus that we joyfully share your transforming love with all whom we encounter. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for the healing of the earth. Renew oceans and seas, marshes and estuaries. Uphold the work of conservationists, oceanographers, and all who care for fragile ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for peace and cooperation among local and global communities. Bless the efforts of community organizers, international aid workers, and all those who work for justice and peace around the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for all who are in any need. To all who grieve, bring consolation; to all who are weary or lonely, bring solace. By your grace, make your presence known among all who call to you for healing especially Kim, Doug, Jakub, Wayne, Ron, Allen, Gene, Rich, Carolyn, Kathy and Linda. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We pray for caregivers: doctors and nurses, home health aides and counselors, and those who care for loved ones. Sustain them in their work and help us to build a health care system that supports all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We give thanks for the saints who now rest in your eternal presence. In thanksgiving for their lives of faithful service and witness, we commend them to your loving care. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart
Oh, let the Ancient words impart.

Words of Life, words of Hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us Home.

Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.

Holy words of our Faith
Handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice
Oh heed the faithful words of Christ.

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart
Oh let the ancient words impart.

Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.

Ancient words ever true
Changing me, and changing you.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.
We have come with open hearts
Oh let the ancient words impart.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation.

**ALL: By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

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**

BLESSING

P: The love of God overflow in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill you hearts; and the life of the Spirit † bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen

CLOSING SONG

Let There Be Peace on Earth
(A God's Global Barnyard Pick by Shirley Crosskill)

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

SENDING

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!