

**"MANY WHO ARE
FIRST WILL
BE LAST,**



**AND THE LAST
WILL BE FIRST."**

MARK 10:31, NRSV

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Twentieth Saturday after Pentecost * Oct 9th 2021 5:00 PM



www.stjohnwilliston.org

419-836-5514

20th Saturday after Pentecost

October 9, 2021

**PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

GATHERING SONG

Spirit Touching Spirit

In our worship we find new communion.
In our worship our spirits join in union.
In our worship our voices sing praise
To the Father above for his wonderful love.
It's his Spirit touching spirit that I love.
It's his Spirit touching spirit that changes my heart.
When our spirits combine, his love becomes mine,
and his Spirit can live in my heart.

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

ALL: Gracious God, the source of all love, we are called to share not only our lives but our livelihood, and we find it difficult. We are called to respond in total love to the needs which surround us, but we find this kind of commitment unattractive. The need is great and our hearts are hard. Help us today to discover the great joy of sharing the adventure of giving and the wonder of your Spirit at work in us. We desire a new beginning. Forgive our sin and give us a new start.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE GOSPEL

Leader: Hear the word of the Gospel! The God of all the universe has loved us with an everlasting love that forgets our sin and makes all things new. Hear the word of the Gospel! Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross so our relationship with God would be made right. Hear the word of the Gospel! For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all. We have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer us who live but Christ who lives in us; and the life we now live in the flesh we live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us. Praise God for the Good News of the Gospel!

C: Amen

FIRST READING**Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

SECOND READING**Hebrews 4: 12-16**

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

GOSPEL**Mark 10:17-31**

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were

perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

SERMON

Pastor Shawn O'Brien

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All: We believe in God, creator of infinite wisdom and power, whose love points the direction of the universe and whose concern is for all of us. We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Jesus is the true gift of the Creator's love. Jesus is the reason for our hope and the promise of forgiveness of sin and eternal life. We trust him. We believe the Holy Spirit is present with us, keeping us aligned to the truth of the Scripture and the example of Jesus, our Lord. We believe our relationship with God is born out of grace and acted out through deeds of love and mercy through the church of Christ. We can experience the true love of God in prayer, the Sacraments, the Word, and the community of believers. We desire that the presence of God would come to all people and the joy of Christ would be ours forever. Amen.

PRAYERS

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: God of abundance,

you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SONG

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first, the kingdom of God ... and it's righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you ... Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you ... Seek and you shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you ... Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.

We do not live by bread alone ... But by every word,
That proceeds from the mouth of God ... Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.

Knock and the door shall be opened unto you ... Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia.

HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: We have confessed our sin and God has forgiven us.

All: We come to the table as joint heirs to the community of God.

Leader: We share a common faith and a common desire.

All: We need to be refreshed by the forgiveness of sin, be made new again for today, and receive hope for tomorrow.

Leader: Our Lord, on the night when he was betrayed...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome!

St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. We are using pre-sealed communion elements. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, you may come forward and receive communion from the table. You may consume the elements when you return to your pew or wait until you get outside if that is a more comfortable place for you to eat and drink. Young children are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

BLESSING

Leader: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

I Will Always Be With You

I will be with you always;
Even until the close of the age,
To give you power and give you peace,
To give you comfort all of your days.
I will be with you always!
I will be with you always!
I will be with you..through all of your days.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, the living Word dwells in you!

All: Thanks be to God!

Weekly Announcements

This Week at St. John

Tues: No Blankets
Wed: Northwood McDonalds
Thurs: Committee Night 7 PM
Sat: Worship 5:00 PM
Sun: Worship 9:45 AM

SERVING THIS WEEK

Lector: Julie Stahl
Usher: Jack Mathews
Acolyte: Kennedy Donnelly

In our Prayers

Audry S.-medical concerns
Clarence Smithers- medical concerns
Marilyn Sandroock- medical concerns
Brad- medical concerns
Betty Roecker- medical concerns
Luanne Schlievert- medical concerns
Gary Gregg- medical concerns
Joe Brossia- medical concerns
Jeanette Lentz- medical concerns
Mary Schimming- medical concerns
Sandy Schneider- medical concerns
Ron Gerkenmeyer- medical concerns
Diane Gerkenmeyer- medical concerns
Loren- medical concerns

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the birthdays of Roland and Ronald Sandroock and Aiden Johnson given by their family.

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Mary Lowe given by Mark, Julie and Kallie Stahl.

The Chancel Flowers are given by Ron and Diane Gerkenmeyer in thankfulness to God and in honor of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary.



Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat will be October 17th from 2:00 – 4:00.

Please consider decorating a vehicle for this event. We'd love to have you! We also need donations of wrapped candy. The candy can be dropped off in the box outside the church office.



USHERS AND LECTORS NEEDED

If you would be willing to help , please sign up outside the church office. Now accepting volunteers through November. If you have any questions please see Pastor Shawn or contact the church office.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are working on the updated church directory. If you have not sent in your form and have not received a phone call from the committee, please do so. Forms are in the Forerunner, by the elevator door and in the back of church. You can also do it on the churches website or simply call in your info. Even if there is no change, please notify us.



Thank offering Services

Saturday, November 9th at 5 PM

Sunday, November 10th at 9:45 AM

WELCA envelopes can be returned at any time by placing in the offering basket. The money is used for scholarships, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization and much more.

CAT AND DOG FOOD DRIVE!

Christian Community Life has delivered the supply of contributed Cat and Dog Food to Senior Resources in Oak Harbor. They were absolutely thrilled with the donation that will be given to seniors in Ottawa County who "need a little help" with their pets. If you can continue to help with this caring for pets, please drop off cat and dog food, treats and/or kitty litter at St. John/Williston (near the office) or to Genoa Jewelers. Your continued help will be greatly appreciated by our Ottawa County Seniors and their pets.

We are a Stephen Ministry Church



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